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SOME

ACCOUNT

OF THE

BRITISH DOMINIONS

BEYOND THE

ATLANTIC.

[Price 2s. 6d. *sewed.*]

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

3294

SOME

ACCOUNT

OF THE

BRITISH DOMINIONS

BEYOND THE

ATLANTIC;

CONTAINING CHIEFLY

What is moſt intereſting and leaſt known with reſpect to thoſe Parts:

PARTICULARLY,

The important Queſtion about the

NORTH WEST PASSAGE

Is ſatisfactorily diſcuſſed:

WITH A LARGE MAP;

IN WHICH

The ſaid ſuppoſed PASSAGE, and all the ARCTIC REGIONS, are more fully delineated than ever before:

By WILLIAM DOYLE, L.L.B.

LONDON:

Printed for the AUTHOR, by J. BROWNE;

And ſold by W. DOMVILLE, at the ROYAL EXCHANGE; W. FLEXNEY, oppoſite GRAY'S INN GATE, HOLBORN; S. BLADON, in PATER-NOSTER ROW; J. ALMON, in PICCADILLY; J. RIDLEY, in ST. JAMES'S STREET; J. FOX, in WESTMINSTER-HALL; and M. THRUSH, SALISBURY-COURT, FLEET STREET.

177

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Title Page, if attended to, will ſufficiently inform the Readers, that they are not to expect in the following work a full and circumſtantial account of all the parts therein treated of; but only ſuch particulars as are moſt curious and intereſting, and leaſt known or attended to. The obſervations about the North Weſt Paſſage, it is hoped, will be found more entertaining and ſatisfactory, than any thing that as yet has appeared upon the ſubject: Perhaps, indeed, they will be thought almoſt deciſive.

The Reader, however, is requeſted to obſerve, that the account of De Fonte's voyage to diſcover this North Weſt Paſſage here inſerted, is copied from his own relation, which is not indeed in a very good Engliſh ſtile; though for the moſt part clear and intelligible enough; and therefore it is hoped, that any impropriety of expreſſion which may be obſerved in copying that narrative, ſhall not be objected as a fault to the author of this tract: He choſe to give the ſtory in De Fonte's own words, rather than leave the leaſt doubt upon the Reader's mind, with regard to the genuineſs and authenticity thereof; about which ſome uncertainty, perhaps, might have ariſen, had he put it into his own words, rather than exhibited it in thoſe of De Fonte's original memoirs.

In the annexed map, the parts not heretofore known to us, are delineated from the Ruſſian and Japoneſe maps and charts; eſpecially ſome diſcoveries made in conſequence of the ſearch after the north-weſt paſſage. But the long north-eaſt point, beyond Spitzberg, is ſketched only from reaſonable conjectures.

In this map names are given to ſuch parts as had not obtained till now any proper one.—Thus the Arctic regions are called Hyperborea; a term adopted from the antients: The eaſtern part thereof, including Greenland, &c. is here called Aſperoſa, from the exceeding aſperity of its ſurface as well as its climate. Perhaps, ſome would chooſe the Greek word Thracia, which ſignifies the ſame; but to prevent miſtakes from a ſimilarity of names, Aſperoſa is here preferred. The more weſtern part of Hyperborea, is named Hyperia, which ſignifies far weſt; and the middle portion thereof is denominated Polyneſia, from the great number of iſlands of which it almoſt wholly conſiſts.

The region above Californa, is here called Fucaſia, from the real or pretended diſcoveries of De Fuca; and the immenſe tracts from thence to Hudſon's Bay, and the Allegenny mountains, are named Polimnia, as in a manner intirely compoſed of lakes and meadows, which that word implies. Anthoſia, to the ſouth of Polimnia, ſignifies the ſame as Florida, but ſounds better, as is the caſe with regard to Mexicanea, here propoſed for New Mexico.

As to the names of Apalach, Azilia, Tegeſta, and Accadia, they are but the former ones, now in this map reſtored.

The alterations propoſed for the limits of the Old Engliſh provinces are chiefly as follow: 1. To join New York to New England, and call the whole Neanglia. 2. To make the river Podee, the boundary between S. and N. Carolina. 3. To take from the latter and from Virginia, what ever lies between James's and Roanoake rivers, and to erect it into a province or rather a provincle, to be called Jacobea, from king James I. in whoſe reign, and in this very part, the Engliſh eſtabliſhed their firſt colonies; the capital to be James's town; and this with the other two to be conſidered as ſo many provincles; all three compoſing the one great province of Carolina; juſt in the ſame manner as was now propoſed with reſpect to New York and New England.

A MAP of all the
BRITISH DOMINIONS
beyond the *ATLANTIC* together with the intermixd & adjacent Eſtates of the other *EUROPEAN POWERS* &c.
never before exhibited in one View in any MAP whatever
By
WILLIAM DOYLE, LLB.

J. Prockter ſc.

As the eaſt and weſt diviſion of Maryland are entirely ſeparated and diſjoined from each other by the mighty bay of Cheſepeak; perhaps it would be a more natural diſtribution, if the weſt part of Maryland were united with Virginia, and the eaſt part to Penſylvania, and both with New Jerſey, to be called either from the Greek word Meſſia, or the Latin Midenſia, both implying the middle, unleſs the name which the Indians give thereto be preferred, viz. Tocarrihogon; which ſignifies not only the middle, but alſo moſt excellent: and may as well as Allegenny, (which ſignifies endleſs) be well enough adopted for the omen's ſake, and be thought on that account therefore very eligible names. And for a like omen's ſake, the capital of all our colonies might be called Sebaſtia (from whence Sebaſtia, the name of the regions thereon depending) and the ſituation for it, both as moſt central, and as moſt convenient for commerce and correſpondence, is certainly the narrow neck of land on the frontiers of Maryland and Penſylvania, which ſeparate the two great bays of Cheſepeak and Delaware from one another. And there it is where the chief biſhopric of all our colonies would moſt conveniently be fixed; and which, being but on the very borders of Maryland and Penſylvania, might eaſily be purchaſed from the proprietors of theſe two provinces; if the crown ſhould not make even an acquiſition of the whole; which ought by all means conſiſtently with juſtice to be done; and at which the inhabitants of both provinces would very much rejoice; as thoſe of the Carolinas did, when the crown purchaſed the property of thoſe countries.

If none of theſe ſchemes are brought into execution; then, as it would be ill judged to erect a biſhoprick in a place the immediate ſovereignty whereof was not in the crown, the ſeat of it muſt be at Glouceſter, in New Jerſey, about five miles down the river Delaware, below Philadelphia, and happily enough ſituated; as there is a fine creek in the river, juſt thereabouts, fenced in by an iſland, which renders it a place of moſt ſecure anchorage, and is generally uſed as ſuch by veſſels navigating that river. Perhaps too, ſome might think the biſhoprick beſt fixed there, for the ſake of the old adage, *As ſure as God is in Glouceſter*. But if the government was determined by any ſuch conſideration, it would be eaſy to found a new *Glouceſter* any where elſe.

To his Royal Highneſs, GEORGE-AUGUSTUS-FREDERIC, Prince of WALES.

May it pleaſe your Royal Highneſs,

THE ſubject treated of in the following ſheets is (after the King) of nearer concern to your Royal Highneſs, than to any prince, or any other perſon in the world; and therefore it is that to you the author preſumes to dedicate it; humbly hoping that your Royal Highneſs may peruſe it, with that condeſcending candour, which has in all ages been a characteriſtic of the magnanimous and illuſtrious houſe of BRUNSWICK LUNENBURGH.

Your Royal Highneſs will then be diſpoſed to excuſe the liberty, which he takes, to propoſe plans for the exchange of principalities and regions of great extent; in order to render the Britiſh dominions ſo much more complete, than otherwiſe they can ever be; and your Royal Highneſs will perhaps alſo conſider with ſome favour and attention what is here ſuggeſted with regard to the education of thoſe, who are to preſide over the government of ſtates.

As to the utility, nay, the abſolute neceſſity of a large acquaintance with geography to this end; and perhaps preferably to many moſt

amiable endowments of the mind; there cannot be a fuller proof brought, than from the latter government of Queen Anne: Her moſt ſincere and truly reſpectable zeal for religion; her moſt inexpreſſibly tender regard for her ſubjects and for Britain, whoſe wellfare and proſperity ſhe ſo much preferred to any private ſatisfaction whatever of her own; her ſo numerous and deciſive victories, by which her enemies were reduced to ſubmit to whatever terms ſhe ſhould pleaſe to propoſe: All theſe for want of a little geographical knowledge were of no uſe towards planning a ſolid peace. Neither ſhe nor her miniſtry (even at Gertruydenberg) ever once thought of demanding Canada with Florida, nor Cuba, nor Hiſpaniola, nor even, tho' ſo peculiarly convenient to Brittain, ſo much as the little Iſle of Portorico for her crown; though ſhe might have had them all for the bare aſking; nay, perhaps, Mexico too, if it had been thought prudent for Britain to acquire it.—She might have obtained Flanders for the Dutch; an acquiſition ſo natural in itſelf and ſo convenient to them; and who, in conſideration of their ſo acquiring it, would not then envy her enlarging her dominions beyond the Atlantic: while France would have thought herſelf happy to get all the Charibbee Iſlands, for conſenting to the above-mentioned articles.

Perhaps, indeed, France would even yet rejoice to make this acquiſition by the ceſſion of Hiſpaniola; which, however valuable in itſelf, is certainly a much leſs ſecure poſſeſſion to them; whilſt Britain muſt ever be ſuppoſed to

have

have an eye thereto, becauſe of its ſo convenient vicinity to Jamaica; and who, however, if maſters of Hiſpaniola, would probably never even in any caſe whatever think of the Charibbees more. Theſe would then be conſidered as a natural barrier between the Spaniſh and Engliſh poſſeſſions in thoſe parts; even as France by its interpoſition betwen theſe two monarchies in Europe, does moſt effectually ſeparate them from each other. And as ſuch a barrier they probably would be for ever left.

Indeed the houſe of Bourbon has now furniſhed a very fair opportunity for Britain, to inſiſt on the exchange here mentioned. Queen Anne's peace at Utrecht, bad as it was, yet contained an article of vaſt importance to Britain; *That France ſhould never extend its commerce in the Spaniſh colonies:* With what right then could it acquire ſo much more than an extention of commerce? even an extention of dominions? an acquiſition of even ſome of the Spaniſh territories there, for inſtance Hiſpaniola, which they have lately got; though ſo greatly to the diſſatisfaction of the Spaniſh inhabitants thereof. Britain has therefore a moſt juſt right to ſee, that this important article of the peace of Utrecht be not infringed; has a right to inſiſt on the reſtoration of Hiſpaniola to Spain; or, ſince this latter ſets ſo little value thereon, as to give it away even for nothing, that the ceſſion be made to Britain rather; either for thoſe uſeleſs, burdenſome acquiſitions, Gibraltar, or Minorca, or elſe for our ſouthern Charibbees: while the Leeward Iſlands might

be given to France for the other part of Hiſpaniola; which we, from a moſt unpardonable ſupineſs, ſuffered them to poſſeſs, ſo lately as King Charles the ſecond's reign; nay more, reſtored it to them, after its capital having been reduced in King William's wars; but which may now be ſo reaſonably inſiſted on, to be for ever given up to us.

Should ſuch an exchange of the ſovereignties take place, the ſubjects of both crowns might eaſily agree upon like exchanges of their private eſtates alſo: the reſpective dominions would be then no ways intermixed, and of courſe, in caſe of future ruptures, the navigation to and from the colonies but little interrupted.

This ſcheme might indeed be much further improved, to not only the advantage of Britain, but even greatly to the ſatisfaction of Spain and France likewiſe, if they all conſidered their dominions geographically; and if they would ſtudy that ſo eaſily acquired and ſo pleaſing a part of knowledge a little more; and without which, we, from the foregoing obſervations on Queen Anne's peace at Utrecht, may ſee; that neither piety, nor even other great virtues in Princes joined thereto, can ſecure wiſdom to direct their councils, when yet they may merit from heaven ſucceſs to their arms. Indeed it muſt be an immediate inſpiration, that can guide the judgment right, when it determines of things, with which the mind is wholly unacquainted; as muſt be the caſe where dominions, lands, and territories are to be diſpoſed of by thoſe who know nothing

in the world of their Situation. Such is the conſequence of an unacquaintedneſs with geography.

Alas! how eaſily might the affairs of Corſica be ſettled to the full ſatisfaction of every party whatever, that is in the leaſt intereſted therein, if the miniſters and governors of the ſtates ſo intereſted, were poſſeſſed of but a very moderate ſhare of geographical knowledge, which would lead them to a moſt eaſy removal of all the ſeeming difficulties that affair now appears to be involved in. A way might be ſhewn for France, with honour and advantage, to come out of the diſagreeable circumſtance ſhe has brought herſelf into, by intermeddling with the affairs thereof: An equivalent moſt naturally offers itſelf to the Genoeſe for their rights therein: And all the neighbouring Princes would be much benefited by ſuch a plan, as geography alone ſuggeſts, for the ſettlement of all the ſeeming intricacies, with which the affairs of that iſland appear to be ſo beſet.

I know the people of England in general entertain too great a diſlike to France, to be able to hear with patience of any advantage propoſed for them: but 'tis full time for us to leave off that characteriſtic unſociableneſs of temper, and to learn to conſider our ſo near neighbours, the French, as inhabitants of the ſame world with ourſelves: and though we may be very well allowed to deſire the poſſeſſion of Hiſpaniola from them, yet to do ſo, not in the leaſt from envy, but from the conſideration of the peculiar neceſſity the European

pean poſſeſſors of Jamaica may be under, to add Hiſpaniola thereto—eſpecially as the whole ſtring of the Charibbee Iſles would in truth be a more permanent and convenient; and therefore a much more eligible acquiſition for France to make, than even all Hiſpaniola can ever prove to them: which it is not to be imagined Britain will always continue to ſuffer them to enjoy. And, for my own part, I ſolemnly declare, were I the moſt Chriſtian King, I ſhould prefer the Charibbees to the latter; and 'tis therefore, and not in the leaſt from enmity to France, that I have here taken the liberty to propoſe the exchange: becauſe I conſider the thing entirely with a view to geography, on which ſhould ever be built all political ſyſtems for the adjuſtment of the intereſts of ſtates.

Indeed, a thorough knowledge thereof muſt ſo influence the conduct, as neceſſarily to give to adminiſtration a ſteadineſs that cannot but gain popularity and reverence from the people at home, and a reſpect and deference from the nations abroad: even from thoſe, who, from ſecret motives, might not yet perhaps agree to come into a plan, which they could not however but confeſs to be moſt judiciouſly laid down, and moſt generally approveable, though not, coinciding with their own particular views.

That your Royal Highneſs may ſo carefully ſtudy this part of political knowledge (indeed the very foundation thereof,) as to be able to frame therefrom the moſt wiſe and juſt determinations of the reſpective intereſts of ſtates, whenever, by the King, or by Britain, or even by any neigh-

neighbouring country, called upon for your judgment on thoſe points; and whereby the glory and honour of our crown and our people, as well as the peace and happineſs of every other ſtate upon the face of the whole globe, whom we may have connexions with, may be the more advanced, and to be able to promote which, is the greateſt worldly felicity that a Prince can deſire to attain to, is the very ſincere, and ardent wiſh and prayer of,

May it pleaſe your Royal Highneſs,

Your Royal Highneſs's moſt

Obedient, and moſt

Humble Servant,

WILLIAM DOYLE.

INTRODUCTION.

Of the General Extent of the Britiſh Dominions, and of the Names propoſed to be given to ſuch Parts as have not yet obtained any peculiar ones: The Regions next the Pole to be called Hyperborea, and the reſt Sebaſtia.

THE countries, which the Engliſh profeſs to claim beyond the Atlantic Ocean, extend from about the Bay of Bonadventure, and the great Gulph of Darien; the former in the South, and the other in the North Sea. that is from about three hundred miles on this ſide the Equinoctial Line, to about the ſame diſtance from the North Pole.

Indeed many regions in that extent are confeſſedly the property of other European powers; eſpecially of the Danes and Spaniards: theſe laſt are ſovereigns of Mexico and its dependencies, and of Panama with the parts near the line; which they have very odly annexed to the viceroyalty of Peru. The others are maſters of Iceland, and of ſome tracts of Weſt Greenland, amongſt the polar regions; whilſt a great deal within the above-mentioned limits is ſtill in the hands of the wild original inhabitants; over ſome of whom however towards the north-weſt, the Ruſſians ſeem of late to have thoughts of extending their juriſdiction.

But

But as the Engliſh do now and then talk of reviving their claim to New Albion, on the North of California, diſcovered by their countryman, Sir Francis Drake, and by the natives ſubjected at that time to the Engliſh ſceptre; and as our people ſeem even in earneſt with reſpect to this claim, if ever they ſucceed in the diſcovery of a north-weſt paſſage; and as ſome Indian tribes towards the ſouthern mentioned boundaries; for inſtance, the Moskitos, and Samballaws, have always either as ſubjects or inferior allies acknowledged their dependence on the crown of England; I ſhall probably be thought not much out in extending their empire as far as is now mentioned.

By my aſſigning to the Engliſh dominions thoſe boundaries, I would not however be thought to exclude the French, the Dutch, and the ſame Danes from the property of ſome iſlands which each of them poſſeſs in the Weſt Indies: Thoſe ſhall be taken notice of in their proper places. I have now only deſigned a general sketch of what the Engliſh hold or claim in thoſe parts, without as yet ſpecifying the preciſe determinations between them and their neighbours.

This mighty ſpace, thus extending no leſs than eighty degrees or ſixteen hundred leagues, which make above five hundred Engliſh miles; is by nature's ſelf divided into two great and almoſt equal parts, lying north and ſouth of each other, and ſeparated towards the ſun-riſing by Hudſon's Bay, as on the other ſide they are by

the Streights of Arian, named in ſome Spaniſh maps the Archpelago of St. Lazarus, being full of iſlands, in about fifty-two degrees of latitude. The intermediate ſpace is taken up either by the north-weſt paſſage, if ſuch there be, or elſe by chains of lakes, rivers, and mountains, where that paſſage is imagined to lie.

The more northern part of the two has been called the Polar Countries, the Arctic Regions, Terra Septentrionalis, and the like; but never diſtinguiſhed by any more proper name, expreſſed by one word, and peculiar to itſelf, unleſs we admit that of Hyperborea, which ſignifies far North; is alſo therefore characteriſtic enough, and was given by the antients, amongſt others by Herodotus, five hundred years before Chriſt, to the moſt northern part of the world then known, and which name has been ever ſince retained in that of the Hyperborean Ocean, that waſhes the ſhores of this part we are ſpeaking of: ſo that I cannot ſee why we ſhould heſitate to renew that antient name of Hyperborea; and to give it to this part of the world, which is thus waſhed by that ocean, and which has never as yet obtained any other particular and more proper one. At leaſt I hope for theſe reaſons to be excuſed, if I uſe it in this work, where I have occaſion to ſpeak of it.

The other part, and which lies ſouth of the former, has been generally rather deſcribed indeed, than called by any other proper name. The appelation it is uſually known by is, "The

Britiſh

Britiſh dominions in North America," a ſtrange long one truly, when another ſo much ſhorter and more proper, and better ſounding alſo, ſo naturally occurs: viz. that of Sebaſtia; and which might be thought preferable even for the omen's ſake (as Sebaſtia, which is a Greek word, ſignifies the ſame that Auguſta does in Latin) as well as in memory of Sebaſtian Cabot, the firſt diſcoverer thereof for the Engliſh.

Indeed one ſhould think that whole Peninſula, called hitherto North America, might much more properly go by the name of Sebaſtia; for as Americus Veſpucius, by being the firſt European who ſailed along a great extent of the ſhores, of that which is now called South America, did thereby acquire a right to give it his own name; let him not therefore be envied the honour of doing ſo, but let this part thus diſcovered chiefly by him be called America ſimply, not South America. And as for what has been named North America, ſince he never ſaw, nor ſailed within many hundred leagues of it; whereas Sebaſtian Cabot did, being the firſt that navigated along and diſcovered all that tract of the ſhore thereof, which is waſhed by the Atlantic Ocean; and this alſo four or five years before Americus's voyage, and even within two years after Columbus had firſt diſcovered the Weſt Indies: why then ſhould not he, that is Sebaſtian Cabot, enjoy the like honour as Americus, and be allowed to give his name to the northern Peninſula, as the other did to the ſouthern.

One would think the Engliſh at leaſt, whoſe king, Henry VII. was the perſon that actually employed Sebaſtian, when he made that diſcovery; the Engliſh, who reap ſuch ample fruits by that very diſcovery, and who actually poſſeſs or claim half at leaſt, if not rather indeed the larger moiety of this vaſt region; and who can undoubtedly give what names they pleaſe to their own poſſeſſions; one I ſay might think that they ſhould prefer giving thereto rather that of Sebaſtia, in memory of the man who in their own ſervice firſt diſcovered ſo great a part thereof, than to call it North America, ſo much longer an appellation and taken from another perſon, in the ſervice of another nation, who never ſaw, nor ſo much as ſailed even within many hundred leagues thereof. And if but one news paper of credit perſiſted in retaining this name, it would ſoon become common, and the only one in uſe, which might prove an incentive to ſome publiſher of ſuch to adopt it; that ſo he might have the reputation of firſt introducing it into general uſage. At leaſt I have determined to take this liberty, and deſire it may be obſerved that whenever the name of Sebaſtia is here uſed, thereby is intended what has hitherto been vulgarly called Britiſh North America.

But here it may be asked, how many parts do I make the globe of the earth to conſiſt of? or would I reckon more than four? viz. Europe, Aſſia, Africa, and America.

I anſwer

I anſwer by asking again, which of theſe four do the northern polar regions belong to? for inſtance, Greenland? and which of theſe are the Southern ones part of, as New Holland, New Zealand, &c. Every one knows they belong to none of the four: yet ſince it is beyond all doubt that there are really ſuch countries, ought they not to be called and known by ſome name? and will there not then be ſix parts for the globe to be divided into, inſtead of four?

But the truth is, there are neither ſix nor four; that is, if we conſider only thoſe diviſions, which not princes or ſtates, not geographers, or hiſtorians, but which nature itſelf has made between the ſeveral parts of this globe, and that by the moſt natural of all boundaries, namely ſeas.

For let any one but caſt his eye on a globe of the earth, or in a map thereof, and he will preſently ſee the whole is moſt naturally divided into three great parts; which, being ſeparated from each other by ſeas and oceans, may therefore be well conſidered as three mighty iſlands. And this has been obſerved by the great geographer Cluverius.

One of thoſe, and which almoſt always occupies the right hand ſpace in a map of the globe, is what was firſt inhabited and planted by mankind, and that even for ages before either of the other two were at all known. For this reaſon it has been frequently called the

Old

Old World, but has not as yet obtained any more peculiar or proper name, to diſtinguiſh it by from the others.

What then if we call it Ogygia, an appellation uſed by ſome modern authors, but borrowed indeed from the antients, who uſed to to call things very antique by that name? and will not this therefore be a very proper appellation for it?

This third portion of the world ſo propoſed to be called Ogygia, may be obſerved to be very naturally likewiſe divided into three other parts, namely, Europe, Aſia, and Africa; which therefore ought no longer to be conſidered as three ſubdiviſions of one of thoſe other capital parts and great diviſions thereof, namely of the Old World, or of Ogygia.

A ſecond capital diviſion of the earth is that which in maps thereof uſually occupies the left hand ſpace, and to which has often been given the name of the New World, as it were to diſtinguiſh it from the former; but this very improperly; ſince the third general diviſion might as well be called by that name, viz. the New World as the ſaid ſecond.

Well then, why may we not call it America? becauſe America (even in its utmoſt ſuppoſed extent) takes in only part thereof, and was never yet conſidered as including the Arctic Regons. But if here we again conſult the antients,

tients, we ſhould find a very proper appellation for this ſecond grand diviſion of the earth, namely, Atlantis. For though they had confeſſedly, but very imperfect notions thereof; yet it is certain, they knew ſo much of it, as to give it a name, and to call it Atlantis, by which it is expreſsly mentioned by Plato, three hundred years before Chriſt, who deſcribes it as a mighty iſland, lying on the weſt ſide of the Atlantic Ocean, and near as large as the whole then known world. He ſuppoſes indeed, it had been ſwallowed up by an earthquake or an inundation, as in his time, it was no longer ſo known.

What need we then be longer at a loſs for a name? and why not call it Atlantis, as the antients did? and who therefrom perhaps tranſferred the name of the Atlantic Ocean to that, which ſeparated it from this part of the globe, that is from Ogygia.

This ſecond capital part of the earth, ſo called Atlantis, is like the other firſt one, very naturally ſubdivided into three more leſſer parts as beforementioned, namely, America, Sebaſtia, and Hyperborea; by the firſt of which is meant only South America; by the ſecond is intended North America; and by the laſt are the Arctic Regions deſigned.

The third grand diviſion of the globe is always placed at the bottom of the maps thereof, becauſe it lies ſouth of the other two; and therefore

therefore may very properly be called Auſtralia, which implies a relation to the South; and the great South Sea, which waſhes ſo much of its ſhores, may thence get the name of the Auſtralian Ocean: for what is a great ſea but an ocean? or the great South Sea but the ſouthern or Auſtralian Ocean?

Upon the whole then, let us not be afraid to ſay, that the whole globe of the earth is naturally divided into three great parts only, namely, Ogygia, Atlantis, and Auſtralia; that Ogygia is again ſubdivided into three others, viz. Europe, Aſia, and Africa. That Atlantis is in like manner ſubdivided into three more, namely, America, Sebaſtia, and Hyperborea; while the very imperfect knowledge we have of Auſtralia, makes it impoſſible to ſay into how many leſſer parts it is ſubdivided.

Return we then to the more immediate conſideration of our ſubject; beginning firſt with Hyperborea, as it is indeed neareſt to the Britiſh Iſles, and was firſt diſcovered, and that for ages alſo, before either Sebaſtia or America; the other two parts of Atlantis, were at all known to us.

CHAP.

CHAP. I.

Of Hyperborea.

FROM Spitzberg, which lies almoſt north of the port of Wardhuys, near the north cape of Norweigh, though at a conſiderable diſtance therefrom, nearly two hundred leagues; Hyperborea extends weſtward, very nearly within ſight of Siberia, at the extremity of Aſia, above ſeven or eight hundred leagues; and from within four or five degrees of the pole, the main body of it reaches to ſixty degrees, or five hundred leagues ſouthwardly; while ſome parts, which however are hardly the twelfth part of the whole, extend ſomewhat further to the ſouth, *viz.* about fifty-two degrees; that is above one hundred and ſixty leagues more.

Thoſe parts thereof, which we aſſuredly know, are only Spitzberg, before mentioned, Iceland, eaſt and weſt Greenland, and the countries bordering on the weſt ſide of Baffins, and Hudſon's Bay. For the reſt, we are only certain that there is an extent of above ſeven hundred leagues, running from the ſaid bays weſtward towards Aſia, which the Ruſſians have

actually viſited, and given us a map of ſome parts thereof, and ſeem to intend making ſettlements therein; but this is all we know for certain of the exiſtence thereof.

There is, indeed, a Japoneſe map extant of thoſe parts, which was brought into Europe by Kempfer; and has been publiſhed in London from the late Sir Hans Sloan's Muſeum; which agrees well enough, both with the Spaniſh accounts of California, and of the Streights of Anian; and alſo with thoſe which the Ruſſians have given us of the parts they viſited: but what regard is to be paid to many other particulars in that Japoneſe map, is more uncertain. There may, very poſſibly, be ſuch a number of iſlands lying on the north and north-eaſt of the moſt eaſtern parts of Siberia, which are therein mentioned and called Ye-Que, or the Country of Dwarfs; becauſe we are well aſſured, and know for certain, that the inhabitants of the moſt northern countries are of much lower ſtature than their more ſouthern neighbours; as, for inſtance, the Laplanders, Icelanders, Greenlanders, and Eſkimos; none of whom exceed five feet and an half high, and moſt of whom are ſhort of that: and theſe iſles we ſpeak of, being aſſuredly the moſt northern inhabited part of this globe, it is likely their people may be of ſtill lower ſtature; and no wonder, therefore, they might be conſidered as dwarfs by the Japoneſe, who are a tall perſonable race.

Indeed this mention of the Ye-Que gives a kind of credit to the map in queſtion; and ſhews thoſe, who made it firſt, had viſited theſe iſlands;

iſlands; as we are ſure the Japoneſe were great navigators, and had actually viſited Kamſchatſcha, which is the remoteſt part of Aſia; becauſe, when the Ruſſians firſt entered this country, they found Japoneſe there; and therefore it is not incredible but that they might have viſited Ye-Que too; or, indeed, how elſe could they have entertained the notion of ſuch a diminutive race, if they never had ſeen ſuch there?

However, of the certain exiſtence of ſome, at leaſt, of thoſe Ye-Que iſlands, we can the leſs doubt, as the Ruſſians actually viſited the moſt ſouthern of them in the year 1723: and the people of the neighbouring continent have a conſtant tradition of there being ſome ſuch iſlands.

But for other parts, more remote from Japan, their map cannot be ſo well depended on. It is true the coaſts of the ſeveral countries, they have delineated therein, have a viſible likeneſs to what we know is the truth: but then this likeneſs is very far from being exact in ſuch more remote parts. However, as theirs is the only one we have of thoſe northern coaſts of Hyperborea; we muſt follow it, whenever we pretend to delineate them; until ſome more exact diſcoveries ſhall, in ſome future time, be made of them.

CHAP. II.

Of the Climate, Soil, and Produce of Hyperborea.

THE climate of Hyperborea, in general, (except perhaps the parts extending to fifty-two degrees towards the Streights of Anian) is very much upon the extreme; being ſo intenſely cold in winter, that, upon touching iron or ſtone, without gloves on, the ſkin ſticks thereto, as if bliſtered, which is enough, without deſcending to further particulars, to give the reader an idea of the ſeverity of the weather there. On the other hand, the heat in ſummer is proportionable, very much exceeding that of the Weſt-Indies; ſo that very often in Greenland, people are not able to bear their cloaths on, when they are doing any thing that may be called exerciſe, but they are obliged to ſtrip to their ſhirts on ſuch occaſions.

This extraordinary heat produces ſuch innumerable quantities of muſkitos, as are almoſt abſolutely intolerable; and to avoid the plague of which, the natives let their hair always hang down over their eyes, to keep thoſe troubleſome little animals from them, which elſe would every moment be getting into them.

This

This great heat cauſes a very quick vegetation; ſo that all the produce of the earth in ſummer is very ſoon ripe; and therefore it might probably yield barley, if it were ſown; alſo whatever elſe can grow to perfection in three months, which is all their ſummer, the reſt of the year being winter, without any intervening medium of ſeaſon.

A very great part of Hyperborea is totally deſtitute of trees; and, in moſt parts, the trees are low, and ſtunted in their growth; or rather are only of ſuch kinds, as exceed not the height of ſhrubs, as juniper; which, however, if properly cultivated, might yield a very comfortable ſhelter.

The ſoil is in ſome places, as in Eaſt Greenland, a vaſt aſſemblage of nothing but naked rocky mountains, totally deſtitute of all vegetables fit for the uſe of man; and therefore wholly uninhabited, except by wild animals: but in other places it is more fruitful, and generally inhabited, even far north; as for inſtance, in the Ye-Que iſlands beforementioned. Spitzberg is uninhabited indeed, though ſaid to be covered with a very fine verdure in ſummer; but its being deſert, may be owing to its great diſtance from any inhabited place, from whence it might be peopled; Eaſt Greenland, which is neareſt to it, being, as was obſerved, unfit for the reſidence of man; and the Ruſſian dominions too much out of the way, and ſeparated beſides, by a part of the Hyperborean ocean, which is not always, even in the height of ſummer, navigable.

The wild animals are in greater or leſſer numbers, according to the plenty or ſcarcity of food they can find. The north-weſt parts, next Siberia, the Ruſſians aſſure us, produce the fineſt furs as yet known in the world. In the parts nearer to us, they are moſtly beaſts of prey that are found, particularly bears, which are exceeding fierce, and when preſſed by hunger, will attempt forcing their way into the very habitations of the people; and are not daunted by the greateſt efforts of reſiſtance made even by numbers of men together. However, the natives often maſter them, and regale ſumptuouſly on their fleſh, which is ſaid to be very good and nouriſhing, and their ſkins very valuable.

As to tame animals, I cannot find they have any except dogs; only that in Iceland they have alſo ſheep in tolerable numbers: but of this iſland we ſhall ſay more by and by.

All the ſeas, rivers, and ponds, however, of all Hyperborea, as far as we have been able to diſcover, abound in incredible quantities of fiſh of many ſorts, of which the whales are the chief; the catching of which is moſt highly profitable to the Dutch and Hamburghers, and might as well be ſo to the Engliſh, if they were as attentive to it.

The ſeas of Iceland abound in ling, which they dry without ſalt, and is therefore much valued for ſea proviſions, as not cauſing the ſcurvy near ſo much as ſalted foods do; however, one ſhould think all the other ſeas of Hyperborea might have the ſame advantage, if they yielded the ſame ſpecies of fiſh; but as the matter has

not

not been tried, the Danes, who are maſters of Iceland, are the ſole venders of this commodity; for they ſuffer no other European nation to fiſh in thoſe ſeas.

Iceland alſo produces vaſt quantities of the fineſt ſulphur in the world; and abounds in a moſt ſweet and fragrant herbage, that feeds abundance of ſheep and ſmall neat cattle; and ſome of it of ſo excellent a nature, as to be perhaps preferable to any other perfume whatever for ſcenting cloaths; and this I take notice of, the rather, as I do not recollect Horrebrow, in his account of Iceland, mentions this particular: but I perfectly well remember to have ſeen a ſmall bag of it about the ſize of a big pincuſhion, which was preſerved in my mother's family, the Pynſents and Wandesfords, for above fourſcore years, as I was aſſured, for that purpoſe; and in all that time the perfume was no way impaired: I thought it highly agreeable, and even to exceed lavender; they ſaid it was Iceland graſs; and I have ſo often had it in my hands, and aſked ſo many queſtions about it, that I think it impoſſible I ſhould be miſtaken, only that I confeſs I never ſaw the contents, which were ſewed up very elegantly in a ſilk bag; nor perhaps did the poſſeſſor ever ſee them: they took it on tradition; yet ſuch as I think might be depended on; for how ſhould it come into their heads to ſay it was from ſuch an out-of-the-way part of the world as Iceland; the ſituation of which I queſtion if they knew any thing of; for ladies are not uſually ſuch great geographers. However, what I have ſaid may put thoſe who are curious in ſuch matters, and have oppor-

opportunities by the means of the Daniſh ambaſſador at our court, upon inquiring further into this.

The Iceland lap dogs, I have been aſſured, are the moſt curious creatures of that kind in the world; their hair uncommonly long and beautifully curled, generally of a ſnow-white, though ſometimes of a cream colour.

The other natural curioſities of this iſland are ſo extraordinary, that I venture to recommend to thoſe, who deſire to be more fully informed in thoſe particulars, the peruſal of Horrebrow's work beforementioned, or, where it cannot be had, the Abridgement of it in the Univerſal Magazine for 1758, where it is far better done than in the other Magazines that I have ſeen.

The air of Iceland is much more temperate than in any other part of Hyperborea that we know of; owing perhaps to its being an iſland at a conſiderable diſtance from any other land, and therefore its atmoſphere more replete with ſaline particles, beſides being much better inhabited: the great number of fires muſt needs attemper the rigour of the cold. Yet it produces no trees but juniper and birch.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Of the Inhabitants of Hyperborea; *and how this Part of the World, as well as* Sebaſtia, America, *and all* Atlantis, *became peopled.*

THE inhabitants of Iceland, though low of ſtature, are yet rather handſome. They are of good parts, ingenious, and often apply themſelves with great ſucceſs to literature. They are chriſtians of the Lutheran perſuaſion; devout and religious without ſuperſtition.

The Greenlanders are ingenious likewiſe, but deſtitute of literature or chriſtianity; except what they have lately learned by the inſtruction of Daniſh miſſionaries. They are ſhorter of ſtature, and not ſo handſome as the Icelanders.

All the weſt coaſts and iſlands of Baffins bay are inhabited by people of like perſons and manners; as are alſo the environs of Hudſon's bay, quite round for a conſiderable extent, including Labrador, or New-Britain. All theſe people are called Eſkimos, or Eaters of Raw Fleſh, which they are very fond of; a cuſtom began at firſt, probably, from neceſſity, but continued from uſe, and, perhaps, ſome liking; for I have been aſſured by thoſe who had, by miſtake, eaten meat, ſcarce warm through, that it far exceed-

ed what was more dreſſed. Theſe Eſkimos, as well as the Greenlanders, who likewiſe follow the ſame uſage, are not at all for that, the more ſavage, wild, or barbarous; they are extremely witty and ingenious; and, no doubt, had they an education like the Icelanders, would make an equal progreſs in the ſciences.

There is one peculiar cuſtom common to all theſe people, that is, the Icelanders, Greenlanders, and Eſkimos: they are extremely fond of ſatyrical poetry: their bards frequently ſend challenges to one another to contend herein, as Latin ſchool-boys with us, challenge one another to cap verſes: and ſo great a licence is allowed on thoſe occaſions, and their ſatyrs are often ſo ſevere, that there have been many inſtances of thoſe poets, who were thought to have the worſt of it, making away with themſelves for grief.

This puts me in mind of Juvenal's *Et conducendo laquitur jam Rhethore Thule: And even the people of Thule now talk of eſtabliſhing public lectures of oratory:* and has ſometimes made me doubt, whether Iceland was not the antient Thule, as many learned men have thought it was: for Angrim Jonas, as well as other old authors, have aſſured us that Iceland was always famous for this ſatyrical poetry: Mr. Horrebrow beforementioned, tells us the practice is continued to this day. Mr. Egede, a Daniſh miſſionary in Weſt-Greenland, tells us, that people, illiterate as they were found, yet have the very ſame cuſtom: and all who have viſited Hudſon's bay, have given us the ſame account of the Eſkimos.

After

After this, can there be a doubt but that they are derived from one another; and all from the Norwegians, who we know for certain were the firſt planters of Iceland and Greenland.

For the Norwegian annals inform us, that between eight and nine hundred years after Chriſt, they ſent colonies to Iceland; and, in proceſs of time, having viſited Weſt-Greenland, and diſcovered an hot ſpring there, they founded a city, and being then become chriſtians, eſtabliſhed a biſhop's ſee in the place, and called it that of St. Thomas.

Greenland is waſhed on the weſt by Davis's ſtreights and Baffin's bay. What wonder if the deſcendants of the Norwegian colony rambled round the bay, and croſſed the ſtreights, which are of no great breadth but twenty leagues; and thence ſtill ſpread all round Hudſon's bay, and even into Newfoundland; which, when firſt diſcovered and viſited by the Europeans, was peopled, though thinly, by the Eſkimos?

And one Capt. Richard Williams, of Milford, (but now, as I hear, reſident on George's kay, Dublin) a man of as ſcrupulous a veracity, as ever I knew in my life, told me he had paſſed two entire winters in Newfoundland; and that he and his companions, rambling in the woods, diſcovered what they all took to be a tomb, conſiſting chiefly of a very large and miſhapen flat ſtone, on which was an engraving; very like writing, which, though none of them could read, had, in their opinion, the entire ſimilitude of an epitaph.

As I can abſolutely depend on the probity of Capt. Williams, I cannot doubt of the matter

of fact; and hence conclude, that either ſome Norwegians, or of their deſcendants, the Icelanders, or perhaps of the Greenlanders, or Eſkimos had been in this iſland, and erected this monument; when as yet theſe two latter nations had not totally forgot the uſe of writing. But if it was the work of either of the other two, that is, of the Norwegians or Icelanders, it is abundantly ſufficient to ſhew how theſe parts might have been, and, indeed, beyond doubt, were firſt peopled originally from Norweigh.

And as for the objection drawn from the Norwegians, till of late, appearing to be totally unacquainted with thoſe parts; the anſwer is very eaſy: we know the three northern kingdoms of Norweigh, Swedeland, and Denmark, were, for above three or four hundred years together, after the ſending out of this colony, in a continued uninterrupted ſcene of civil wars; during which time, there need be no wonder if they neglected their colonies; indeed, the wonder is, how they preſerved Iceland. And as for their colonies not ſending, and endeavouring to keep up a correſpondence with their parent ſtate; it is very conceivable they might chooſe to drop it, for fear of being involved in the miſeries of the civil wars; as well as at the inſtigation, perhaps, of ſome of their principal inhabitants; who, from motives of ambition, might be tempted to make uſe of this opportunity, to throw off their dependence.

As to their forgetting letters and literature; the very laborious life, which the penuriouſneſs of their country ſubjected them to, and the want of ſchools, might have occaſioned it. And af-

ter

ter all; How came the ancients to loose all knowledge of Atlantis, except just its name? The same will account for the Norwegians, with respect to those colonies of theirs in Greenland also.

What has been hitherto said on this subject, is abundantly sufficient to shew how Hyperborea, Sebastia, and America; in short, all Atlantis might have been peopled; namely, from the Norwegians; even if he could give no other account, or form no other guess about it.

But, indeed, we have no necessity to confine ourselves to the Norwegians alone. It is probable enough, that some of the Japonese might have contributed to the peopling thereof; because we know that the Japonese had in use a map of the north-west part of Atlantis, conformable enough to the accounts which the Russians and Spaniards have given us of those parts; and which we are sure they could have had from neither. How then could they have drawn or made out such a map, but from a knowledge of the coasts? and how that knowledge, without visiting them? And might not those visits naturally occasion some Japonese to be left ashore, and so to begin the peopling of some parts thereof?

Besides, the Mexican histories constantly affirm, that their nation came originally from the north-west; which we know to be nearest to Japan: and how, indeed, could a nation like the Mexicans, learn that polity and those arts they were masters of, but from such a nation as the Japonese; when we know all their other neighbours were mere barbarians?

And

And as to their not being acquainted with writing, but preſerving their hiſtory by another method, let it be conſidered, that the Japoneſe, who viſited thoſe coaſts, were but navigators who, perhaps, had very few books with them, which might be very ſoon worn out. They might be alſo entirely ignorant of the art of printing, though in practice in their country; and as we know they have no A B C, but uſe, in writing, hyeroglyphics inſtead of letters, they probably taught ſomewhat of the ſame kind to their poſterity; amongſt whom, if the Mexicans were ſuch, it is no wonder if we find their hiſtories preſerved by bundles of threads, variouſly coloured and knotted, to expreſs the ideas they would communicate; and which may be conſidered as analagous to the Chineſe and Japoneſe hyeroglyphics, and ſo make out the greater probability of thoſe being the anceſtors of the Mexicans.

But, further; as Siberia lies ſo very near to the north-weſt part of Atlantis, as to be almoſt within ſight of it, we can hardly doubt but ſome of its people may have, at ſome time or other, removed thereto.

And, poſſibly, even the Phœnicians and Carthaginians; (who muſt have been thoſe that knew any thing of Atlantis, and viſited it, if it was viſited at all by any of the inhabitants of Ogygia, that is, of the old world) ſome of them, I ſay, poſſibly might have ſtaid, or been left behind in ſome of their voyages hither, and contributed ſomewhat to the peopling of it in part: ſo that, all theſe particulars conſidered, one cannot ſee how the peopling of this part of the world can be any longer a matter of wonder.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

How all Hyperborea *may be peaceably acquired by the* Engliſh, *with the full and free Conſent of the* Danes *and* Ruſſians, *who are the only* Europeans *to conteſt it: and in order thereto, firſt, How* Britain *may obtain the* Feroe Iſlands.

THE fiſheries and furs of Hyperborea (to ſay nothing of the ſulphur, minerals, and other foſſils thereof) are ſo very valuable, that 'tis no wonder if every nation who, had it in their power to poſſeſs the whole, ſhould attempt to do ſo; and 'tis therefore a greater ſhame for the Engliſh, who are the only nation in Europe that are in a way to make ſuch acquiſition, to have neglected to do it.

No European ſtate is in any ſort whatever able to conteſt it with them, but the Danes and Ruſſians. Let us then conſider, whether theſe two nations may be gained over to conſent, that the Engliſh alone have it. Nor ſhould I propoſe this out of any predilection for my own country, but becauſe it to me ſeems, that they alone have it in their power to make this entire acquiſition; beſides that, the Britiſh iſles are, of all Europe, the neareſt to the countries in queſtion; and therefore,

therefore, if poſſeſſion was to follow vicinity, they ought to have it, excluſive of all others.

Adjoining to Scotland are two conſiderable parcels of iſlands; one lying north-weſt, and called the Hebries or Weſtern Iſlands; for Heber, Hiber, Iber, Iver, and lër, all in the old Celtic language, ſignify the Weſt; from whence comes the Greek EAR, and Latin VER, the *ſpring*, becauſe the Weſt wind then begins to blow, whereas all the freezing months it was the eaſtern. From hence comes Iberia, Spain, that is the weſtern region; and Hibernia, Ireland, the ſame, ſo named by the Iberians or Spaniards, who, we know, were they who principally peopled Iceland; and that not as the Iriſh romances ſay, in the time of the Iſraelites; but in that of Auguſtus Cæſar, who having conquered Spain, and the Spaniards not able to bear the Roman domination, they paſſed over in great numbers to Ireland; and finding it in truth the moſt north-weſt part of Europe, as Spain was the moſt ſouth-weſt, called it, after their own country, Ibernia: the letter *n* being added to Iberia, either to denote the plural number, as in *Teuton*, *Saxon*; (which thoſe who underſtood not the language, thought to be part of the original names; whereas, indeed, they were originally *Teut* or *Sax*, and the *n* being added, only implies the plural, and therefore ought, in Engliſh, to be called, not Saxons and Teutons, but Saxes and Teuts, from which latter comes the word Dutch:) or if the *n* in Hibernia is not inſerted to denote the plural, then it ſignifies *there*, ſo as *Iërn*, or rather *Iërin*, ſignifies the Weſt there; as if one was looking and pointing

to

to it; in order to ſhew it to another, as the inhabitants of Wales might, from whence it may be ſeen

The other parcel of iſlands, adjoining to Scotland, have been called the Croadies, or Croadic iſles, and lie off the north coaſt thereof; but from whence the name Croadies is derived, I know not. They are again ſubdivided into three parts, each conſiſting of a ſeparate detached cluſter, namely, the Orkneys, Schetland, and Feroe.

Theſe three parcels, in old times, did all of them belong to Denmark and Norweigh, being thence peopled: but it is now a long time ſince Orkney was united to Scotland; whilſt the others continued under their old proprietors; till James the VIth of Scotland, who was afterwards the 1ſt of England, got Schetland tranſferred to Scotland, by way of portion with his Queen, Anne of Denmark, when he married her. But whether it is to continue annexed to that crown, if his poſterity ſhould fail, I never could yet learn; only one would imagine it was to revert back again in caſe they failed; or, why ſhould it be made a part of the ſhire of Orkney, from which it is ſo diſtant, and not be made a county of itſelf? And why did the court of Denmark, ſome few years ago, talk of their expectative rights therein? However, whether it be ſo or not, nothing, one ſhould imagine eaſier, than to get an abſolute ceſſion, both of all theſe, and of the Feroe iſlands too, if either the Daniſh or Engliſh miniſtry ever thought of, or troubled their heads about the matter.

Feroe lies ſo much nearer to Schetland, than it does to Norweigh, or to any other part of the Daniſh dominions; that it is impoſſible not to conſider it as naturally a Britiſh iſland, and deſtined by the Author of Nature, one time or other, to be annexed thereto. How then ſhall that be?

Very eaſily! The king is poſſeſſed of a county in Germany, called Wildeſhuſen adjoining to the Daniſh county of Oldenburgh, and very convenient to it. He has alſo a juriſdiction in the very middle of the city of Hamburgh, and independent of that magiſtracy. He poſſeſſes this latter as ſovereign of Bremen.

And the foundation or origin of it was this: When the archbiſhoprick of Hamburgh was founded; being amongſt nations ſomewhat ſavage, and for ages not thoroughly reconciled to chriſtianity, it was thought beſt to annex it to the ſee of Bremen, which was very potent, ſeparated but by the river Elbe from Hamburgh, and therefore more abundantly able to keep up and ſupport againſt any encroachments or mal-treatment, this new ſee of Hamburgh, than itſelf could do, if left alone.

The archbiſhop of Bremen, therefore, had always a conſiderable juriſdiction in Hamburgh; and when the ſees were ſecularized, and Bremen given to the Swedes, at the peace of Munſter, this Hamburgh juriſdiction went along with it: and when King George I. of England, in 1718, acquired Bremen from the Swedes, (which, by the following peace, in 1720, was left to him) he got the forementioned ſove-

reignty

reignty in Hamburgh along with it; and, at the ſame time, had the county of Wildeſhuſen ceded likewiſe to him by the Swedes, to whom it alſo belonged; though not as a dependent on Bremen, that I can find, but a little ſeparate ſtate, as, indeed, it is no way contiguous to it as Hamburgh is; it is true, it joins on the king's county of Diepholt, and ſo might conveniently enough be under the ſame ſovereign; but much more of it touches on the Daniſh county of Oldenburgh; to which, therefore, it is ſo convenient an acceſſion, that there is little doubt, if it was propoſed, but the court of Denmark would, for it, give up to our king both Feroe, and whatever expectative rights he might have on Shetland alſo; at leaſt, if not for Wildeſhuſen, which perhaps is little more than an equivalent for Feroe, yet aſſuredly they would, for the Hamburgh juriſdiction, which, though inferior in real value to Wildeſhuſen or Feroe, yet to the Danes, who have ſo long had an eye on Hamburgh, it would be of many times more than both of the others put together.

However, as it is probable that the ſovereign of Bremen would chuſe to exchange rather with the Hamburghers themſelves, that juriſdiction we ſpeak of within their city, for a little territory called Ritzenbuttle, which they poſſeſs at the very mouths of the two rivers Elbe and Weſer; and which would be very convenient to Bremen. I ſuppoſe the exchange for Wildeſhuſen would rather take place between the king and the Danes; and I make no doubt of the conſent of the latter, as Wildeſhuſen, of how

little value ſoever, would certainly be of more, and might be indeed of more importance to the Daniſh dominions, than ever Feroe can, as ſhall be more particularly ſhewn hereafter. Not to mention how much ſecurer the poſſeſſion of Wildeſhuſen would be thus guaranteed by the whole empire, than that of Feroe ever can; which all the powers of Europe could not hinder the Britiſh naval force from making an acquiſition of, if the government of England was ſo diſpoſed.

Trifling as this article of Feroe may ſeem to a miniſtry, who know very little of the intereſt of this our country, and nothing at all of that of foreign ſtates; and if they did, have ſeldom virtue enough to conſider any thing if they could help it, but their own private advantage in the ſecuring themſelves in power; and who probably may affect to treat what has been ſaid of Feroe, as an idle notion of a mere ſchemer; yet I cannot help inſiſting upon it, as one of the firſt acquiſitions that Britain ought to make, even before much more opulent ones. For who indeed can caſt an eye on a map of Europe, and not take notice of the Feroe iſlands, and finding that they belong not to Great Britain, whilſt yet they lie ſo much nearer thereto than to any other country; and therefore muſt of neceſſity be conſidered as naturally Britiſh iſlands: who, I ſay, can avoid thinking it a pity that they are not ſo; and then proceed to aſk, Is there no method for Britain to acquire them? And being informed of the circumſtances mentioned relating to Wildeſhuſen, who could but wiſh an exchange effectuated, whether he were Engliſh

or Daniſh, it being equally, as was obſerved, the intereſt of both courts to agree to it.

And here let me be permitted to obſerve, how uſeful might the former acquiſition of Bremen, Wilderſhuſen, &c. by George the firſt, hereby become to England; an acquiſition ſo often and ſo loudly ſince exclaimed againſt, and which yet, by the exchange propoſed, might be made uſe of to procure to the crown of Great Britain, the complete union under its dominion of all the Britiſh iſles; which, whilſt it wants Feroe, is ſtill incomplete. Add, that no other ſtate in Europe could propoſe ſuch mutual advantage to itſelf, and at the ſame time to Denmark, by any ſuch like exchange as Britain could. To Sweden, Ruſſia, Pruſſia, or Mecklenburgh, with whom Denmark has neareſt connexions; to any of them the acquiſition of Feroe would be abſolutely uſeleſs; theſe dominions lie not near it, nor could it be in any navigation of the leaſt ſervice to them; Pruſſia, beſides, has nothing at all to give in exchange, nor Sweden any but ſome of itſelf; which, to be ſure, it would never part with. So that the ſovereign of Bremen, or Wilderſhuſen alone, who happens at the ſame time alſo to be king of Great Britain, can furniſh an equivalent to Denmark for it. An equivalent too, which, as ſhall hereafter be ſhewn, may become of moſt ſingular utility to the Daniſh court itſelf, and of a thouſand times the advantage that it will be to the end of time poſſible for Feroe to prove to it.

Suppoſing then an Engliſh miniſter to exiſt, who for a very little time (for very little indeed would ſuffice to bring about a treaty, which

would

would be ſo much to the advantage of both parties) ſhould forget himſelf, his dependents, his own private views, and little ſhifts to bring about ſome pitiful parliamentary ſchemes, as to effect the exchange propoſed. How much would he be regarded? How many overſights in other matters would he be pardoned? and what an inward conſciouſneſs of merit would elate and ſupport him! To have completed to Britain the poſſeſſion of all the iſlands, naturally thereto belonging, and that without coſting a ſingle ſhilling to the ſubjects. Suppoſing this done; and let us now proceed to ſee what might be the conſequences thereof, which naturally leads us back to our ſubject, the acquiſition of all Hyperborea.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

Of the Acquiſition of all Hyperborea.

NORTH from Feroe, but inclining a little to the weſt, and conſiderably nearer thereto than to Norweigh, lies the large iſle of Iceland, about as big as England, though peopled only by about ſixteen thouſand families; valuable, however, for its fiſheries, its ſulphur, and its uncommonly fine herbage. Its fiſhery the Danes wholly appropriate themſelves, altogether excluding foreigners therefrom. This created ſome diſputes, in queen Elizabeth's reign, with the Engliſh, and ſome years ago with the Dutch. However, as far as I can learn, the Danes have prevailed in the conteſt, and retain the excluſive right to themſelves; and to be ſure they do the ſame with reſpect to Weſt Greenland alſo, which lies ſomewhat beyond Iceland. So that upon Great Britain's acquiring thoſe two countries, it is of courſe to be ſuppoſed that they would therewith have the excluſive fiſheries, and every other produce alſo of the two.

Indeed queen Elizabeth, on occaſion of the diſpute before-mentioned, ſo far forgot herſelf

and

and the rights of her crown, to which appertains the ſovereignty of ſo much of the ſeas; as to preſent a memorial to the court of Denmark againſt theſe claims; wherein ſhe inſiſted that all ſeas were free, and all fiſheries therein, by the law of nature, equally ſo to all nations however diſtantly ſituated. I do not recollect whether Grotius, in his Mare Liberum, has quoted this memorial; but I ſuppoſe Mr. Selden has convinced every one who has read his Mare Clauſum, in anſwer to Grotius, that the navigation of ſeas, and of courſe their fiſheries may in many inſtances be the privilege and property of particular neighbouring nations, who have a right thereby to exclude all others; and this being the caſe, with reſpect to the ſeas and fiſheries of Iceland: and Britain, being moſt abundantly able to aſſert their excluſive rights; if they were once in poſſeſſion of the countries (as Iceland in the preſent inſtance) to which they belong; I preſume there need be no further argument on the ſubject; come we then to ſee how this acquiſition may be made.

His Britannic majeſty does, as duke of Brunſwick Lunenburgh (as I apprehend) enjoy the dutchy of Lawnenburgh, about as large as, at a medium, the counties in England generally are. It is well inhabited, advantageouſly ſituated for trade, and may be thereby rendered very rich, if it be not ſo already. The great navigable river Elbe, juſt before its entering the territories of Hamburgh, runs through this dutchy, dividing it into two; the northern part whereof is the largeſt, and has the chief

town

town Lawenburgh in it. And this northern part runs out very excentrically on that ſide, beyond the main body of the king's other German dominions, which are entirely ſeparated therefrom by the ſaid great river Elbe; except only a ſmall part of the county of Danneberg, which lies on the ſame ſide of the river, though hardly contiguous to Lawenburgh; and, except alſo the diſtrict of Ratzeburgh on the north of the whole, near Lubec; and otherwiſe alſo very advantageouſly ſituated; and thought of ſuch importance by king George II. that he went and paid it a particular viſit the laſt time he was in Germany. This was formerly a biſhoprick, but ſecularized; and the diſtrict of Ratzeburgh given to the houſe of Brunſwick Lunenburgh; as the reſt of the biſhoprick was to the houſe of Mecklenburgh, who ſtill enjoy it. The king is in poſſeſſion alſo of ſome ſmall territories cloſe adjoining to Holſtein, and ſuppoſed to belong to Lunenburgh; about which, ſome years ago, the court of Denmark and king George II. had a diſpute; but the former, in conſideration of a ſubſidy treaty, relinquiſhed them.

This ſubſidy could not, at the time it was made, be conſidered as of the leaſt advantage to England; but if a proper uſe be made of the diſtrict purchaſed thereby, it may now be of very conſiderable ſervice, by being along with Ratzeburgh, and ſo much of Lawenburgh as is on that ſide of the Elbe, given to the court of Danemark, in exchange for Iceland, Greenland, and for every other pretention they can make to any part of Hyperborea. Thus would

his Britannick majeſty's ſubjects become inſtantly in poſſeſſion of the excluſive fiſheries and commerce of thoſe regions; and Denmark be ſtill benefited by this acquiſition from the king's German dominions, ten-fold more than either the king himſelf could by retaining them; or, than the Danes could by the greateſt improvement they could make of Iceland, and of the others.

For the diſtricts in queſtion would be ſo highly convenient acceſſions to the dutchy of Holſtein, that nothing whatſoever, of three or four times the extent or revenue, could be found of equal value and advantage to Denmark, as theſe would prove; and therefore there can be no doubt of the exchange on their ſides taking place: and what other power on earth could hinder it?

Come we now to examine how Ruſſia might conſider this, and whether they might not be induced to quit all thoughts of extending their empire over the weſt part of Hyperborea, near the extremity of their Aſiatic provinces; and even to guarantee it to Britain, if this latter choſe to have it made a part of their dominions.

In order to this, I am obliged to anticipate ſomewhat we ſhould elſe defer till we came to the article of the Weſt-Indies; but which the ſubject now before us obliges us to bring in here.

The Danes are poſſeſſed of three of the Virgin Iſlands, lying between the eaſt end of the Spaniſh iſle of Porto-Rica, and the Engliſh part of the ſaid Virgin Iſlands. Theſe three

are

are St. Thomas, a free port, St. John, and Santa-Cruz. Theſe Daniſh iſles are moſtly inhabited and planted by the Engliſh, who have ſettled there; partly from the ſcarcity of ſugar land in their own iſlands; and partly in order to be protected from their creditors, who ſometimes, but very rarely, however, are permitted (and that by the expreſs orders of the court of Denmark, but never at the mere pleaſure of the Daniſh governors) to ſeize the effects; but never, on any account whatever, allowed to impriſon the perſons of their debtors; and which has made theſe three to become very flouriſhing places, notwithſtanding the bad policy in general which their governors aſſume a power of ruling them with.

Theſe iſlands, however valuable in themſelves, were ſo little regarded by the late king of Denmark, that he ſold all his lands and domains in St. Cruz to a nobleman, whoſe name I have forgot, for not a very great ſum of ready money, which he then had occaſion for.

I take it for granted, therefore, that the court of Denmark would part with them in exchange for any thing of great and real value to them in Europe.

Now it happens, that his Britannic majeſty has, on the weſt ſide of his German dominions, a principality called Diepholt, before-mentioned, about as large as two thirds of Lawenburgh, or perhaps more.

It adjoins, indeed, conveniently enough to his other ſtates, as Bremen and Hoye; but would not in the leaſt deform or incommode them if it were ſeparated therefrom: but it

would greatly add to the value of the Daniſh counties of Oldenburgh or Delmenhorſt; on which Diepholt, and alſo Wildeſhuſen, as in the preceding chapter mentioned, border, if they were united thereto.

Suppoſe, then, an exchange made between the three Daniſh iſles in queſtion, and this country of Diepholt; of what conſideration would this be to Ruſſia?

This latter court had not long ago been on the point of making an exchange with Denmark, by ceding the imperial prince of Ruſſia's part of Holſtein to them, in exchange for Oldenburgh and Delmenhorſt; which, however, being acknowledged much inferior in value, was to have the difference in worth made up by a ſum of ready money; I think about twelve hundred and fifty thouſand pounds ſterling; to raiſe which, it was, that the late king of Denmark ſold his domains in St. Cruz, as beforementioned; and, at the ſame time, made the Lubeckers and Hamburghers to advance him conſiderable loans. But the agreement ſtill remains unfiniſhed, as I apprehend the treaty lately executed between them, being, as I hear, not for the exchange of all, but only of ſome part of Holſtein alone, viz. ſome Ruſſian parts thereof for ſome Daniſh.

What now, if the court of Denmark, by the exchanges propoſed with his Britannic majeſty, ſhould be able to add Diepholt and Wildeſhuſen, to Delmenhorſt and Oldenburgh? might not that be more ſatisfactory to Ruſſia? But, if inſtead of purſuing that plan, what if theſe four counties were given to count Buren; or, as

he

he calls himſelf, Biron, now duke of Courland. Inferior as they are, by about half, or perhaps more, to this latter, the poſſeſſion of them would however be ſo much more ſecure to his family, when thereby become members of the Empire; and of courſe at all times whatever ſure of its protection, than can ever be the caſe with regard to Courland; which, if any revolution happens in the Ruſſian empire, or change of humour in the ſovereign thereof, will always be ſo precarious a poſſeſſion to one, who has no better title thereto, than the mere favour of a former Empreſs, and of the preſent Czarina, forcing him upon the Courlanders; that it is not to be thought he would heſitate a moment to prefer the poſſeſſion of Oldenburgh, &c. to Courland: his rights in which he might then aſſign over to the Ducal Houſe of Holſtein, and to the Imperial Prince of Ruſſia, who is head thereof; who, with the conſent of Denmark and Sweden, (which are preſuppoſed) could hold it againſt all the world, if Britain, with its marine, guarantied it; and to ſecure whoſe powerful interpoſition herein, the court of Ruſſia might well relinquiſh to the Engliſh, all pretenſions to the regions next Siberia; aſſuring themſelves, that while Courland was in the poſſeſſion of the Imperial prince, the Ruſſians would never think of a revolution, which would hazard the ſeparating ſo valuable an acquiſition from their empire, as Courland would ever prove.

I know, indeed, another exchange might be propoſed, and perhaps eaſier effected too: namely, inſtead of Diapholt and Wildeſhuſen, to

give

give up the county of Danneberg along with all, or the greater part however of Lawenburgh; for which the Danes ſhould cede Feroe, and their three Weſt Indian iſles to Britain; and transfer Oldenburgh to the electorate of Hanover, to be annexed thereto. For if even the exchange before-mentioned with Courland, ſhould not take place, ſtill the dominions of the houſe of Holſtein would hereby be rendered all contiguous; a circumſtance whell worth the attention of all the branches of that family; and therefore ſuch an exchange as ſhould effect this, would undoubtedly, with great readineſs, be agreed to by them.

But as it is uncertain whether this might not interfere with ſome arrangements, which the government of Hanover might wiſh to agree upon with the king of Pruſſia; as that prince did offer to king George II. to cede Eaſt Friezland, &c. to him, in conſideration of getting Denneberg, &c. in exchange; which our king, out of too great a predilection for his old paternal inheritance, rejected, though ſo greatly to the advantage of both Hanover and of England: and as it is poſſible ſuch propoſed exchange may yet take place, which could not be, in caſe of the ceſſion of Danneberg to the houſe of Holſtein. Therefore it is, that I have rather inſiſted on the other plan; though either would be equally advantageous to Great Britain.

See now the unſpeakably vaſt, the incredibly mighty acquiſitions, which the parting with ſo exceeding ſmall a portion of his majeſty's German dominions could procure to his regal ones; and which no other prince in all Europe could poſſibly

poſſibly have it in his power, by any imaginable method whatever, to obtain from Denmark and Ruſſia, but a Britiſh king of the houſe of Brunſwick alone. How greatly, therefore, ought England to regard ſuch a family! How rejoice, that providence deſtined them, above any other in Europe, to their crown. And how much conſideration ought they to have now for Hanover, which they have formerly ſo much deſpiſed, nay, proſecuted with downright malevolence; when they conſider, how exceedingly valuable an acquiſition it may thus procure to their empire; beſides, what it may yet, by ſome further exchanges, be the means of adding to them, even territories of ſtill much more immenſely great importance; and which we may perhaps, in the proſecuting of our preſent deſign, hereafter mention.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Of the Advantage which the Poſſeſſion of all Hyperborea *may be to* Britain, *and of the beſt Method of ſettling and ſecuring it.*

A Miniſter of ſtate, if he condeſcends to read over the paſt pages, which, however, is much if he does, eſpecially in England, where an univerſal diſſipation reigns, and where nothing but the abſolute neceſſity of affairs can oblige thoſe in power, to think of any thing but the methods of keeping that power and reaping the fruits thereof, in procuring pleaſures of all ſorts to themſelves; utterly regardleſs of the public, and dead to all ſentiments of honour and glory. Such may probably aſk, well after all, *Cui bono?* where is the good of all this? What is the value of ſuch an acquiſition, as you, good Mr. Author, do yourſelf repreſent Hyperborea to be? I am of the French ambaſſador's mind, who being ſhewn all the rarities of Swedeland, and been entertained at all the royal villas about Stockholm; when aſked, by queen Chriſtina, how he liked the country? anſwered, without ceremony, that his liking of it was ſuch, that if he was ſovereign thereof, he would ſell the crown

crown and royalty, and buy a private eſtate with the purchaſe money in France or England; for he had been ambaſſador before that, at the Engliſh court. And 'tis thought this had a greater influence on that queen to make her reſign her crown, than any other conſideration whatſoever.

Undoubtedly, there are many ſuch inſtances of inſenſibility, as to every thing that ſavours of heroiſm or virtue; and with ſuch 'tis in vain to argue: but for thoſe who are friends to commerce, who wiſh to civilize mankind, and to introduce religion into countries as yet unknowing of it; what nobler employment can be propoſed, than thus ſpreading the light of religion over an ignorant people, and humanizing a nation that is partly but mere ſavages? What greater advantage could be even almoſt wiſhed for to Britain, than the ſecuring to herſelf alone the endleſs fiſheries, the abundant furs of all that mighty tract? Is ſuch an acquiſition not worth regarding or endeavouring after? eſpecially when, as I have ſhewn, it may be ſo eaſily, ſo cheaply effected, without one ſingle drop of human blood ſhed; one ſingle drachm of ſilver expended on the purchaſe.

And for ſettling it, inhoſpitable as the climate ſeems, we find it is inhabited; and that by people who have the means of removing to a better ſouthward, where there is waſte land enough for their ſettling in, and yet they chooſe their preſent frozen ſeats: and why, pray, may not others be found the ſame way inclined? eſpecially, as we know many of the ſervants to the Hudſon's Bay company, who come home to

England about buſineſs, do yet pine and long for the ſnows and froſts of the regions they left behind them there.

Some of the army might be tempted by double pay, to try a ſeaſon there; it is beyond diſpute, they with proper care and proviſion would ſurvive: for companies of Engliſh have paſſed an intire winter in Eaſt Greenland, by much the moſt inhoſpitable part of the whole, without loſing one of their number. And many private ſoldiers, on being favoured with a diſcharge before their time, might very poſſibly be tempted to accept of a ſettlement in ſome parts of Hyperborea: while many other ſpots of it might be peopled by convicts, to whom tranſportation thither would be a real puniſhent; and not, as it is now, rather an encouragement to their crimes, when they are ſent to our fine colonies in Sebaſtia.

Beſides, not only convicts, but perſons who are too juſtly ſuſpected of guilt, might, and indeed ought to be ſent thither, and not ſuffered to brazen out their honeſt neighbours, as if they were innocent, becauſe the lenity of our laws did not convict them; whereas, perhaps, every man on the jury were perſuaded of their guilt. In ſhort, whenever there were ſtrong circumſtances againſt criminals, tranſportation to Hyperborea ſhould follow, and that to a more or leſs ſevere climate, according to the degrees of their apparent guilt. In this caſe, robbers and thieves would not eſcape through the unwillingneſs of the proſecutor, to take away a life, as too often happens; and then all rogues would be called to an account, and puniſhed; as indeed,

not

not only theft and robbing, but all wilful frauds whatever ought. All bankrupts ſhould be ſent thither; what buſineſs have they here? I mean, however, only ſuch as become ſo by careleſſneſs or wilful extravagance. All perſons likewiſe that even attempt to defraud, though unſucceſsful: in ſhort, a knave ſhould not be left in Britain. Let them all be ſent off to Hyperborea; and all others beſides, that on good grounds, and ſuch as their two juries ſhall think ſufficient, are ſtrongly ſuſpected of knavery; and then I believe it would ſoon be well repleniſhed with inhabitants, who would then, perhaps, become honeſt; at leaſt they would of abſolute neceſſity become induſtrious, and of courſe be ſerviceable to themſelves and to their country.

There would be no danger of their rivalling their mother country in manufactures; the ſummer is too ſhort, and the winter too ſevere for carrying on of ſuch; they muſt therefore have them from other parts of the Britiſh dominions, and they would be abundantly able to pay for what they wanted, by furs and the produce of their fiſhery; to ſay nothing of valuable minerals and foſſils that are ſaid to be there.

Misfortunes and puniſhments fit the mind for religion; theſe new colonies might thereby become good, if proper proviſion was made for paſtors amongſt them; and the burden of procuring and maintaining them not left upon the poor new ſettlers, as has been done in the ſouthern Charibbee Iſlands, where there was ſo much waſte land to ſpare; and where, inſtead of providing lands for the maintenance of the clergy, and thereby eaſing the people, the very

glebes which had belonged to the French prieſts were ſold, and not a foot of ground or houſe left to their reformed ſucceſſors. I only, by my own perſonal intereſt and application, procured at Barroualle, in St. Vincent, a glebe of fourteen acres; I put in for nineteen, all contiguous to the church, whereof two for a clerk. The commiſſioners gave none to a clerk, but allotted ten adjoining to the church for the miniſter, and four more at ſome diſtance, but in ſight, and planted with coco, and ſo, much more worth in their opinion than the other ſeven or nine which I aſked for. At Waſhogunny, the capital, the glebe houſe was ſuffered to be pulled in pieces by the common ſoldiers through mere wantonneſs; though a very pretty and convenient manſion. The glebe, however, of two acres, was continued; but the miniſter out of above three hundred adjoining, which belonged to the crown, could get no addition, but two, of coco land indeed; but which being out of ſight, and ſeparated by the river, which in rains is impaſſible, it was of little value. In Buccamaw pariſh they ſold the glebe of eight acres, and gave none inſtead; at Chaſteau Bellair, they did not give one foot.

At Dominica they gave two acres of parched ground for a glebe, while they ſuffer the French prieſt to poſſeſs about four and twenty with a little houſe. There was ſome reaſon for not at firſt diſturbing Pere Maſſey, their then prieſt; for it was he who induced the greateſt part of the French to take the oaths, and live under the Engliſh government, and has a very favourable

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opinion of our church. He has ſince purchaſed a little eſtate, whither he is retired; and is ſucceeded by a worthleſs fellow, a bigot, and an enemy to our church, and inſolent to our clergy; in which, however, he told me, he was abetted by the preſident of the iſland, who bid him give himſelf no trouble about the Engliſh miniſter. This I mentioned to himſelf, he did not deny it, but excuſed himſelf on account of the Engliſh miniſter's not waiting on him at the government houſe, to congratulate him on his becoming preſident; though he acknowleged, indeed, that he had on the very day of his acceſſion complimented him thereon: but it ſeems it was at the collector's houſe, not the government's. So it was not thought in form enough by Mr. Preſident, who as he was never ſeen at church but twice in a whole year, once whereof in his preſidentſhip; ſo he acted but ſuitably in bidding the French prieſt give himſelf no trouble about the Engliſh miniſter; pretending, however, to act out of reſentment.

And here on the mentioning of this, let me be permitted to anticipate what ſome might think ought to be referred to the future account of the Engliſh Charibbee Iſlands; but which will not be improper here, as what I am going to mention, equally concerns all Engliſh colonies: it is the ſcandalous behaviour of the great, with reſpect to religion, which has ſuch an effect, that all follow the example; and it is incredible how few attend the public worſhip of God, whereby a general depravity of manners and brutiſhneſs of behaviour is too general.

At

At St. Kitts, in one pariſh, (I think it is called St. Pauls) though full of gentry, it is a good congregation that amounts to twenty perſons of all ſorts. At Sandy Point, a well inhabited trading little town, out of three hundred, of age to go to church, there are uſually but about ſixty. And for communicants, the pariſh clerk aſſured me, that in fifteen years he never knew ſo much as a ſeventh perſon attend on the occaſion. At Baſſe-terre, the capital, where they have above fifteen hundred grown perſons, the congregation conſiſts of one hundred and fifty. At Middle Iſland, of fifteen only.

The Iſle of Nevis contains five pariſhes, whereof two are ſerved alternately; and in the four congregations, there are not ſixty. I have counted but ſeven in the church of Charles Town, the capital; there are, however, more communicants in proportion than at St. Kitts. In the little country pariſh of St. George Ginger-land, that had not even the ſmalleſt village in it, the communicants were never leſs than nine, though the congregation was very rarely twenty.

At Antigua, I reckoned twice the congregation at the capital town, which they told me was at the time I happened to be there, uncommonly large, but it was not quite two hundred and fifty in all, out of two thouſand five hundred whites, (the number of them through the iſland having been lately taken) without reckoning the Blacks and Mulattos, of whom above twenty helped to make up that congregation.

At Dominica, notwithſtanding the town is large and exceeding populous, twenty-five, beſides the ſoldiers, were the greateſt number I ever knew

knew there, indeed they were much oftener but but twelve, eight, or ſix only.

At Grenada, I am told, ſcarce any body goes to church at all; nor do they ſo much as deſire a miniſter among them, though there are ſuch numbers of Britiſh ſettled in the iſland. And for Tobago, they have no clergymen at all in it, which is an excuſe for there being no proper public ſervice in the whole iſland. The king, it is true, pays a chaplain; but the governors too eaſily grant them leave of abſence, as they do at St. Vincent's and Dominica too; where at preſent there is neither iſland or regimentary chaplain, one deputy diſcharging both offices: and there is but one at Grenada too, by which children die unbaptized, and great numbers are buried without funeral ſervice, to the ſcandal and infamy of the church of England; as thoſe iſlands are full of French, who are very punctual at all public worſhip, and muſt needs think very unfavourably of thoſe, whom they ſee ſo totally neglectful of it.

Barbadoes is ſo exceeding populous, that it is impoſſible but the congregation muſt be large. Though I have heard many of the inhabitants ſay, they went more to ſee and be ſeen, than out of devotion. However, thoſe public aſſemblies contribute much to civilize the people, and therefore they are highly uſeful, independent of religion: and I have obſerved, that in proportion, as the public worſhip was neglected, good manners and decency decayed.

At St. Kitts, where the congregations are ſo thin, the middling and inferior people are generally rude and unpoliſhed. At Nevis, where they

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are ſtill thinner, they are much more ſo: and at Dominica, where ſcarce any go to church at all, they are proportionably more deficient in every inſtance of good behaviour. I mean, however, only the Britiſh dominicans; for the French there, as they conſtantly frequent the public worſhip, are a much better behaved people.

No wonder indeed thoſe Britiſh I ſpeak of ſhould be ſuch; not a governor do I remember to have ſeen at church but Mr. Scott ſix times; not a preſident but Mr. Pringle four times; and Mr. Woodbridge once; and once more before he was preſident; not a ſingle member of the council but two twice; and one of the collectors as often; not one of the judges; not one lawyer or attorney; not one juſtice of Peace; not one of all theſe, even one; not a ſingle officer of the crown, either civil or military, but a landwaiter a few times, another juſt once; the comptroller never, the ſecretary of the iſland never; always indeed the military officer of the day was there, and now and then a ſtray officer beſides dropped in. But I knew the ſoldiers were once peremptorily forbid to go to church, nobody knew why: ſo that indeed, no wonder as I ſaid, the iſland ſhould be in a kind of barbariſm. At Nevis and St. Kitts, they are not near ſo bad; becauſe ſome of the gentry do ſometimes go to church, and are followed by ſome of the middling and inferior folk; yet there is ſtill too great a neglect in that particular. Many eſtated men were never at church in their lives, but on occaſion of ſome ceremony as a burial, or the like. The

preſent

preſent preſident of Nevis was never, I believe, ſeen within the walls but on ſuch account; his predeceſſor but ſeldom, though his family indeed often went. There are many lawyers, attorneys, judges, juſtices of peace, and other publick officers, as well as members of the council and aſſembly in both iſlands that never go at all. What wonder then if there be no religion, and if, of courſe, there muſt follow a great decay of good behaviour and civility.

The eaſieſt remedy in the world for all this, would be the ſovereign's inſiſting on his governors always going; the members of his council always attending; and no perſon whatever that had a commiſſion under the crown making a practice of abſenting; requiring alſo that every one of them brought their families too. This would gather full congregations; this would poliſh and humanize the people; they would get a habit of much better behaviour; and, of courſe, be more reſpectful to their ſuperiors than they now are, and dutiful to the government.

For a proof of this, let me mention preſident Symmonds of Nevis, who never or his family miſſed church, which was that of the little out of the way pariſh of Gingerland, before mentioned; but the congregation all his time was ſo great and the place ſo thronged, that many people could not get room in their own pews. They are now reduced to thirteen or fourteen at a medium: I have ſometimes ſeen but ſix, nay but two, there; though the day was exceeding fine; ſo much bad or good influence has example.

At St. Kitts lieutenant governor Flemming never miſſed church; and though he is reported to have ſlept the whole ſervice, yet it brought a very large congregation, now reduced to 150. Sir George Thomas at Antigua was a conſtant churchman; and 'tis therefore beyond all compariſon a much more civilized iſland than Nevis or St. Kitts are now become; and as near half the people of Monſerrat are Romaniſts and never miſs their church, it makes the reformed go to theirs in tolerable numbers too. The conſequence is, they are ſome of the beſt educated and humanized in all the Charibbees.

In order therefore to civilize the new ſettlers of Hyperborea, the article of religion muſt by all means be taken care of; the public officers obliged, under high forfeitures, to attend at the duties of it; and paſtors for that end provided for the miniſtry thereof: and out of the poor little ſtarving candidate clergy, with which England is overſtocked, if few or none can be prevailed on to go thither, theſe offices may be ſupplied by the Icelanders; who will not refuſe, for a moderate ſtipend, removing to no very great diſtance, nor very much worſe climate; and who are as religious, ſenſible, well-behaved men of their kind as any where exiſt. When Iceland was once under the crown of England, as before propoſed, in five years the ſcholars and clergy would all learn the language, ſo as to be able to perform religious offices therein; and at a ſmall expence to the crown, they might be ſupplied with printed Engliſh ſermons, in ſufficient quantity, for preaching.

The mention of Iceland makes me go back to the ſtate of the church there. They have two biſhopricks worth about 300l. ſterling a year each; it would be better if they were made five ſees; an archbiſhopric being one, and placed at their head: each dioceſe would then have about fifty pariſhes in it, and each pariſh above ſixty families; which would anſwer well enough. An univerſity ſhould alſo be eſtabliſhed for ſupplying the miniſtry both of this iſland and of all Hyperborea; as making eſtabliſhments in the Britiſh colleges for them would be attended with a much greater expence to the ſcholars, than is incurred at Copenhagen, where they now ſtudy; as alſo perhaps ſoften them too much for the rigour of an Hyperborean climate. Biſhopricks ſhould here and there alſo be eſtabliſhed in the reſt of Hyperborea, according as it becomes peopled; and one or more archbiſhoprick over them. The adverſaries of prelacy may ſay what they will; but the inſtitution of overſeers in all religions, and in all ſtates, chriſtian or heathen, has been found ſo uſeful that mankind have, either from nature alone, or inſenſibly, fallen into it: which, ſingly, is an argument that can never be anſwered or refuted in it's favour, and ſuperſedes all neceſſity of recurring to Chriſt or his apoſtles for it; though neither is that any way difficult.

CHAPTER VII.

Of the Government to be eſtabliſhed in Hyperborea.

AS to the government of Hyperborea no doubt but all the provinces thereof, as of all our colonies in general, ſhould be admitted to the enjoyment of Engliſh freedom. The contrary would be very dangerous, as under an arbitrary minded king and corrupt miniſtry it might be made uſe of to deſtroy the freedom of England itſelf. 'Tis therefore a wonder that attempts are made to deprive our ancient colonies of that freedom, which not only by charter, but by a preſcription of above 140 years, (which perhaps is a better title than the charter itſelf) they have been ſo long in the undiſputed poſſeſſion of.

I know 'tis ſaid that 'tis not to the king, but to the legiſlature of Great Britain they are to be ſubjected in matters of taxation: but people will very little conſider who taxes them, if they think they are taxed unjuſtly.—Did the Britiſh parliament ever pretend a right to tax the little Iſle of Man? and ſhall they not ſhew the ſame regard to thoſe colonies? the meaneſt of whom, perhaps Nevis, is worth more to the crown than ten ſuch iſlands as Man. No, no! let them tax themſelves; they may indeed be reſtrained in the method of taxation: For inſtance,

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let all exciſes be aboliſhed, and nothing taxed but property; and in order to know that property, there will be no occaſion for oaths, which but introduce perjury; let all taxable property be regiſtered or forfeited; there will be then very few concealments.

If all the oppreſſive taxes of England were aboliſhed, which bear hard upon the poor, (indeed the property does not pay above a ſixth of the whole) and the burden were laid upon the rich, (and who were ſo, would eaſily be known by a regiſtry) no one could then complain.

People unite in political ſocieties for the mutual preſervation of their lives, liberties, and properties. Every man's life and liberty is alike; but their properties are very unequal: If there was no property, as amongſt ſavage nations, then all ſhould alike contribute to the publick: but the inequality of property makes it juſt, that he who poſſeſſes moſt, ſhould contribute moſt to the public neceſſity. And firſt of all land; for it is to defend the land that the publick puts itſelf to ſo much expence: ſtocks of cattle may be driven away; houſhold goods perhaps removed; gold, ſilver, and jewels carried off to a great value in a ſmall compaſs, for inſtance, in a pocket; and ſo all put out of the reach of plunderers: but the land cannot be ſtirred; 'tis that which invaders moſt court the poſſeſſion of; and 'tis therefore what ought to pay moſt.

And that not by an ill judged arbitrary taxation, rating one piece of ground at 100*l.* and another at not ſo many ſhillings; juſt as they happened

happened to be worth near fourſcore years ago, without any regard to the great alterations that muſt have ſince happened in the value. But preciſely as the rents were now, or in any futuretaxation, ſo ſhould the levies be; and in caſe of a fine, the public ſhould receive its proportion thereof alſo. For it would be but juſt that where, for a fine, the rent was abated, the fine ſhould be brought into account too; and whereas, by many paſt agreements, the tenants are ſubjected to pay the taxes; they ſhould all inſtead thereof be liable to augment theſe rents, according to a medium of what taxes they have paid for ſo many years; and all paſt or future bargains as to taxes be annulled; and the burden laid where it can be beſt borne, on the owners of the land.

What injuſtice that a poor labouring man, who being not able to brew his own beer, but forced to buy it, and who thereby gives employment to brewers and their ſervants; and is ſo far, therefore, a very uſeful member to the ſtate, that he, for every pot he drinks, ſhall pay to that ſtate more than double what the rich man does, all whoſe drink is made at his own houſe.

Why, for God's ſake, ſhould drink, more than meat, more than bread, be taxed? how ill can mankind do without it, more than the other two; but, in ſhort, every method has been tried and put in practice for laying every tax poſſible on the poor, rather than on the rich.

I know your little pitiful narrow minded financiers, who, know nothing of the eternal laws

laws of right and wrong, never trouble their heads about the juſtice, but the facility of collecting the tax they propoſe. And this way of thinking has ſo generally prevailed, that 'tis ſcarce poſſible to find a man of ſufficient other qualifications for the educating of princes, who do not induſtriouſly inſtill theſe wretched mean notions into their heads. But would a ſovereign throw off thoſe ſo contemptible prejudices, would he ſtudy the laws of God and nature, and conſider how the infinitely wiſe providence of the creator has diſpoſed his gifts to divers countries, on purpoſe to force a neceſſity of intercourſe; and thereby to introduce an univerſal philanthropy and humanity amongſt all the nations of the globe; he would ſoon ſee the wickedneſs and iniquity, as well as the folly of cramping trade, or limiting it otherwiſe than as God and nature have viſibly deſigned it. He would then lay it open; he would take off all diſproportioned taxes on it; he would much leſſen thoſe on labour and induſtry; and he would lay the burden where it could be beſt borne, and where moſt juſtly placed, on property, whether land, or money put out to uſe, or wherever elſe it would be with the greateſt juſtice impoſed.

And if the rich refuſed to bear this juſt and neceſſary burden, the prince need but throw himſelf upon the people, they would be entirely on his ſide; and the rich would not dare to make the leaſt oppoſition.

The colonies following ſuch an example, would all agree in taking off exciſes and taxes on trade; they would aſſeſs property alone,

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and never refuſe a very ample ſhare of theirs to a ſovereign; who by recommending and purſuing ſuch a ſcheme would become the idol of their ſouls; they would perfectly adore him.

It is on this plan that Hyperborea ſhould be eſtabliſhed; and on this it would ſoon thrive and become flouriſhing; and perhaps repay the mother ſtate more than half our ancient colonies are able to do: for what indeed have they to pay us with but timber? which is ſo very much inferior to the Norwegian, that it is of little value in Britain: whereas fiſh, furs, and ſulphur will ever prove moſt valuable commodities, both for the price they may be ſold at, and for the employment they muſt needs give ſo many hands about them.

But what if a colony ſhould refuſe to contribute towards eaſing the public burden of the whole ſtate and not conſent to pay any taxes towards it? though this is a caſe in the higheſt degree improbable ever to happen, yet public faith ought not to be broke, nor juſtice be violated; let the whole race of mankind periſh firſt; but this may be eaſily provided againſt: it is but laying taxes on goods exported to ſuch plantations, in proportion to their real value.

This cannot be thought injuſtice in the mother ſtate; they have a right to impoſe taxes on all the produce of their own country, while it is yet unexported; provided ſuch taxes be fairly and equally laid; but not otherwiſe: for a greater tax ought not to be laid on a pound's worth of one commodity more than another.

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Let a colony refuſe to aid its parent country; why then let nothing be ſent out to that colony, without firſt paying a juſt tax at home. This will do it at once; both raiſe the tax, and yet not levy it in the colony, where the mother ſtrte has certainly no right to levy it.

But they will then ſet up manufactures of their own; as for Hyperborea they cannot be carried on there, as was ſhewn, the climate will not permit it them. And for other colonies, give the people land upon cheap and eaſy terms, and there will be little danger of manufactures being eſtabliſhed amongſt them. Not one manufacturer in a thouſand will follow his trade, if he has land of his own; or if he does, being under no neceſſity to labour, he will afford his work no cheaper that it can be had for from home. And theſe artiſts now gone or going to New England will ſoon quit their trades if the king will put them in poſſeſſion of lands; for they will then aſſuredly ſettle on ſuch lands.

But the fees of grants are raiſed to ſuch extravagant heights, by the little petty officers of governors, that people are not able to take out theſe patents. In the new Charribbee lands I have known the fees of ſome patents exceed the whole purchaſe money paid to the crown. And I preſume the government did not mean to ſell the public lands cheap, that the people might pay the more to the ſeveral offices, through which the patents paſſed. Though all the patents there are ready printed in one form, and a blank left only for the names and dates; yet truly the attorney-general won't let them paſs under 31. 12s. ſterling

each, and ſo on in proportion to all the reſt, and yet the poor ſecretary of St. Vincent was turned out for taking ten piſtoles, for tranſcribing the whole at length in writing into the public regiſtry.

Grants therefore ſhould be made as cheap as poſſible, to enable the poor to take them out. They, the poor, are the artificers and the manufacturers, and when once they have got an hundred acres or ſo, of their own for themſelves and family for ever; they will aſſuredly work no more; they will have no time to ſpare from their plantations; or if they have any, they will expect to be paid ſo high for theſe manufactures, that the buyers may as well have them from their mother country; and the rather as they would be ſure of having them much better.

See now how very eaſily the diſputes at preſent ſubſiſting between England and her colonies, abont the right of taxation, may be accommodated; England ought to drop her pretenſions; as indeed they are unjuſt: ſhe can have no more authority to tax her colonies than ſhe had to tax the Iſle of Man. Yet they ought to contribute according to their ſeveral abilities to eaſe and relieve her; this they have never refuſed, and probably never will; but if they ſhould, 'tis only laying taxes on the exportations thither, and it will, without the leaſt breach of juſtice, anſwer the ſame end. And as for their eſtabliſhing manufactures, ſo many ways may be found out to prevent it; eſpecially by giving, upon eaſy terms, grants of land to the manufacturers; who will aſſuredly then leave off their trades, in order to attend to the cultivation

vation of the grounds: that while ſuch immenſe tracts remain open, to be granted to ſuch numbers of people, more than probably all Europe will even ſend thither; it is altogether unlikely that ſuch manufactures ſhould ever be carried on to any purpoſe. Indeed there is as much propriety in the colonies employing themſelves only in raiſing materials for manufactures, without fabricating themſelves, as in tracts of land in Britain being laid out under ſheep. or flax, or the like, while in the trading towns only, theſe ſhould be worked up. Some arts are more abſolutely neceſſary, even in the moſt out of the way places, and the thinneſt peopled; for inſtance, ſmiths to ſhoe horſes, and the like; and which, therefore, ought by all means to be permitted to the colonies; but by far the greateſt part of all arts can be followed, to purpoſe, only in towns; and, therefore, will never be followed, ſo as to do much hurt to the mother country, if ſhe but takes care to find out a more eligible employment for the emigrants ſhe ſends or permits to go out to her colonies; and to whom, as indeed to all mankind, the culture of the ground will ever appear preferable to any other occupation whatever. I mean where the property of the ground is their own, and the advantage made of it is to be to all perpetuity their deſcendent's property.

Such is the plan that ought to be followed in all our poſſeſſions beyond the Atlantic, the conſequence of which will be an uninterrupted good correſpondence between them and Britain; to which, if the God of Peace gives ſuch ſucceſs to theſe remonſtrances of mine, as to render them the means of eſtabliſhing, I ſhall think it a moſt ſingular glory and felicity of my life.

CHAP. VIII.

Continuation of the preceding Subject.

HAVING treated of the articles of religion, taxation, manufactures, and commerce, and inſiſted on the freedom of the latter, as far at leaſt as it does not hurt the mother country in general, though ſuch a freedom may affect particular perſons; and which, however, there will be much leſs neceſſity of conſidering, with reſpect to Hyperborea, than to the other Britiſh colonies, and referring till we come to them the more particular further examination of this ſubject. Let us now ſee what form of government will be the fitteſt to be there eſtabliſhed.

It will, perhaps, be thought ſtrange, that I, who contend for ſo much freedom in the articles of taxation and commerce, ſhould be altogether for a reſtraint in point of government; yet, from the moſt mature conſideration of the ſubject, I am fully convinced that all colonies ſhould univerſally be prohibited a legiſlature. They ought by all means to be allowed to hold aſſemblies for determining the neceſſary taxes; for examination of grievances; accuſing of ſuſpected perſons, and cauſing them to be brought to trial, where juſtice is withheld, or overawed by

by the greatneſs of delinquents; and for making, from time to time, all neceſſary applications to the ſupreme authority at home. And theſe aſſemblies ought to meet regularly at ſtated times, without waiting for writs or ſummonſes from governors; neither ought they to be prorogued or diſmiſſed at their pleaſure, till they had ſat a ſufficient length to finiſh their buſineſs in. To ſubject them to the arbitrary directions of governors in particular, is intirely to take away their freedom; and as their complaints are often againſt the male-adminiſtration of the governors themſelves, it is not to be ſuppoſed that they would ever be allowed an opportunity of preſenting them to the throne, if it was in the power of the governors to prevent it, by proroguing and diſſolving ſuch aſſemblies at their own pleaſure.

I know princes are told that they ought to be jealous of their authority, which muſt ever ſuffer, if their governours are not allowed ſuch and ſuch powers: but they ought to be told that governors much oftner abuſe their authority than the people reſiſt it.

Princes ſeldom know thoſe whom they intruſt with the government of their people; they are recommended by others, whom they think well of; and thoſe others, if ever ſo honeſt and undeſigning, which however is not always the caſe, yet are themſelves often deceived in thoſe whom they recommend to their ſovereign; who, therefore, knowing the weakneſs of human judgment, and how eaſily it is biaſſed by love and friendſhip, and ſenſible of the depravity of the heart of man, and well aware that for one thoroughly

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honeſt ſenſible well judging perſon, there are a thouſand, perhaps ten thouſand, cunning, artful fools or knaves; as in all the world, ſo probably more about the palace than any where elſe; becauſe there will be for certain a perpetual guard kept, to conceal ſuch follies or depravities; ſo for this reaſon ſhould a prince be always ready to receive information, though againſt the greateſt of his ſervants, the deareſt of his attendants.

Not that he ſhould be diſpoſed to a mean jealouſy; but as he can never know the truth but by examining, ſo ought he never to decline the taſk of ſuch examination. If his favourite has acted well, he cannot but be cleared; the good will of the prince will ever be of ſervice to bring him off, if he deſerves it; and if he does not, why ſhould the royal favour be employed to ſkreen.

A courtier may be the honeſteſt beſt meaning man in the world, but he may err in his judgment; and, if his ſovereign relies too much upon it, he muſt needs do things wrong. This will inflame his people, and they will certainly make him uneaſy, if he perſiſts in acting contrary to their inclinations: when this happens, his favourite may believe, but whether he does or no, will certainly endeavour to perſuade his maſter that they are diſaffected. But a people in general were never yet diſaffected withont cauſe; go over all the hiſtories of paſt ages, and it will be found wherever a great majority perſiſted in a diſlike to public meaſures; that, independent of the diſſatisfaction they occaſioned, they were originally wrong.

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In ſettled governments eſpecially, the very mob are more inclined to reverence their prince than to deſign him hurt; the blame is always laid at his miniſter's door; let but their maſter leave them to a fair trial, and, be the iſſue what it will, the tumult will always ſubſide.

To what end are your little parliamentary intrigues, but to ſkreen ſome ill judging or ill deſigning miniſter from being called to an account; and it is little matter whether the public ſuffer by his weakneſs or his wickedneſs, ſtill if they ſuffer, they cannot but complain; and were he a man of ſenſe and honour, he would chooſe to have all his actions examined with the utmoſt exactneſs, and not try every ſhifting art to evade a parliamentary inquiry. He would ſcorn to cloſet the members; he would diſdain to threaten them with their ſovereigns diſpleaſure, in order to intimidate them from making the fulleſt inquiries. If all he has done in his adminiſtration is but to ſhift and ſhuffle, to rob Peter in order to pay Paul, juſt to get rid of a preſent inconvenience by bringing on a future much greater one; he will have need in truth to practiſe all thoſe little arts to ſave himſelf from effects of public indignation; and he will endeavour to perſuade his maſter, even when his maſter comes to diſcover the weakneſs of his whole adminiſtration, that yet truly it was for his good, and to procure him ſome repoſe, even a momentary repoſe, though by expoſing him to greater ſubſequent inquietudes; and a good natured prince is too often prevailed upon by ſuch repreſentations to permit the royal name to be made uſe of to ſave ſuch a miniſter.

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But what if a miniſter errs through a miſtake of judgment, not a depravity of heart; why ſtill the public will ever think they have a right to be eaſed; and where they have any reaſon to believe it is the head not the heart that has failed, they are inclined enough, eſpecially the Engliſh nation, to be content with a removal of the offending party.

But all men are fallible, even the public itſelf often finds itſelf miſtaken; and by what rule then ſhall a miniſter's abilities be examined, ſo as to be thought worthy of being confided in.

No man can poſſibly be qualified for the miniſtry, who has not firſt a conſiderable knowledge in geography, and a taſte to incline him that way, ſo as to give a very eager attention to all diſcoveries therein; becauſe thereon is founded all the ſkill neceſſary for conducting the public commerce, and regulating the connexions of the ſtate with their neighbours; without this, no plan whatever can be propoſed for carrying on a war; and without it, to direct in framing a ſolid peace, the greateſt ſucceſs in the field cannot inſure ſuch.

I ſuppoſe I need not tell the reader, that a man, much converſant in geography, muſt be ſuppoſed not ignorant of the ſtate of the government in every country he has occaſion to have concerns with; which will include ſomewhat, though, indeed after all, for the purpoſes we are now ſpeaking of, there need not be ſo very much of hiſtory as may be imagined.

This is the qualification neceſſary for the management of foreign affairs; of which commerce, being

being between different nations, muſt always be conſidered as a part.

As to domeſtic affairs a very great deep and thorough knowledge of the law of nature, and nations, is indiſpenſibly neceſſary for the well management thereof: a king who has not learned that moſt valuable part of ſcience, has been greatly abuſed by his preceptors. He that has, will never be much out of in judgment of the meaſures, he is to obſerve with his people. He that has not learn'd it muſt look for a miniſter that has, and that underſtands this moſt important point of ethics, and without which all other parts of education are of no value in a ſtateſman. Painting, muſic, architecture, and many others of the fine arts, are ornamental, and ſuch as it were to be wiſhed every ſovereign, and every prime miniſter had a taſte for; but alas what are they to the good government of their people. The renown'd Grecian, Themiſtocles, being aſked to play on ſome inſtrument of muſic, declared he had never learned it, and when he obſerved it created a ſurpriſe, he nobly anſwered I know not indeed how to handle ſuch an inſtrument, but I know very well how to make a ſmall ſtate a great one; and accordingly he raiſed his country Athens to a pitch of glory it had never known before.

Theſe two parts of knowledge then, Geography and the law of nature and nations are the two great, and comparatively ſpeaking, almoſt only qualifications neceſſary for a prince, or a prime miniſter. For when thoroughly inſtructed in theſe he can hardly judge amiſs, either of foreign or domeſtic affairs, or if deeply

principled in the latter, he can ſcarce be able to prevail on himſelf to act wrong. This part of ethics will open to him ſo clear a proſpect of the rights of all mankind, that he can no more act againſt it, than a man with his eyes open would chooſe to leap down a precipice.

Religion, politeneſs, the belles lettres, are all ornamental and uſeful, but a prince or miniſter very deficient in every one of them, will, humanly ſpeaking, and ſuppoſing divine providence not to interpoſe, govern a ſtate better, and render it happier by ſuch knowledge in geography and ethics, as we have mentioned, than the moſt accompliſhed, and otherwiſe worthy king or miniſter ever born can without them.

A prince ſo qualified will never refuſe to liſten to the repreſentations of his people, I will not ſay aſſembled together in bodies, but even thoſe of the very meaneſt, ſingle perſon: when a poor old woman had applied to king Philip, the father of Alexander the Great for redreſs of ſome grievance, and he anſwered he had not leiſure to hear her complaint; ſhe ſmartly replied then, ſir, you ought not to reign. And the preſent king of Pruſſia, it is well known finds time to anſwer, even in his own hand writing, the particular letters he receives from private perſons. One Mrs. Goodham, an Iriſh lady, who had ſhares in his Embden Aſiatic company, finding herſelf very ill treated by ſome of the governors thereof, took the liberty to trouble the king by the common poſt with a letter on the ſubject: By the very next return of it, ſhe received an anſwer under his own hand, informing her that he had

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taken care ſhe ſhould have immediate juſtice done to her.

The king of Pruſſia is fond of poetry, muſic, and elegance of every kind: His dominions are widely ſpread, and diſſected into a number of ſtates, all ſeparated from one another; yet he finds leiſure for his amuſements, and for attending to, and diſpatching the minuteſt and moſt trifling affairs of all that wide extent of ſtates he is ſovereign of; and what ſhould hinder every other king to do the ſame; to ſee with his own eyes; hear with his own ears; and truſt altogether no miniſter whatever; none of his governors will then dare to abuſe their authority, to maltreat his people; and if any complaints be made againſt his greateſt favourite among them, he will, even from his being a favourite, be ſtill the more ready to attend to every repreſentation relating to him, and will the more willingly puniſh him for having, more than others, abuſed his confidence, as he put more in him than in thoſe others.

So ſoon, therefore, as the repreſentations of the ſmalleſt community in his dominions, and much more thoſe of large colonies are deſign'd to be preſented to him, be it on what ſubject it will, they ought to be allowed the utmoſt freedom herein: I ſay the utmoſt, becauſe it can never be imagined they will offend againſt common decency in ſuch applications, or treat their prince deſignedly with rudeneſs.

But for legiſlation ſuch mixed aſſemblies ſhould never be truſted with it; and how indeed ſhould ſuch be able to execute it well, who, ſo very few

of them, know the firſt principles of law, right, juſtice, or equity.

There never was a good ſyſtem of laws yet made by ſuch aſſemblies; all that ever were well received were compoſed by ſingle perſons, Moſes, Minos, Lycurgus, Solon, Zaleucus, Numa, were all ſuch: all that have been made by numerous ſocieties have been fooliſh, abſurd, contrary to natural juſtice, nay even to common ſenſe; liberty unneceſſarily oppreſſed, the common actions of life pretended to be regulated, and the common rights of mankind abrogated.

Upon the whole I am fully perſuaded that a very ſhort comment on the ten commandments, contained perhaps in a ſingle ſheet of paper, would be all that mankind could poſſibly need for their general direction. Every thing hereto ſuperadded is but form; and how ſimple might thoſe forms be? the greateſt city, every town, every village, require juſt the ſame forms of government; only the times of judicature and the numbers of the magiſtracy inlarged, in proportion to the populouſneſs of the place. What can be neceſſary for the government of London or Paris, more than the meaneſt village, except thus enlarging the times of judicature, as I ſaid, and the number of their reſpective magiſtrates? what power has a lord-mayor more than any other juſtice of peace? they may go by different names indeed, but the authority is the ſame. And what power has a court of aldermen and a common-council, or ought at leaſt to have, more than a veſtry of a country pariſh? neither of them, nor

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the aſſembly of any colony ſhould have power to make by laws, all ſuch are infringements of general liberty, and breaches of public right.

Not that there muſt not be regulations for the better government of ſubaltern ſocieties in a ſtate; but theſe regulations ſhould be all alike; and therefore one univerſal code ſhould be made for every the ſmalleſt part of the dominions of the greateſt ſtate; and that the code ſhould be ſo framed, as to ſuit all other political ſocieties of the reſt of mankind too. Why a Japaneſe governed by one ſyſtem of laws; and a Spaniard, or Britton, an Indian, or Ruſſian, by another? is not the human nature every where alike? are not the neceſſities of the whole ſpecies the ſame, to provide for their lives, liberties, and properties? all other wants are imaginary, and ought not to be taken notice of by laws; but thoſe ſhould be every where alike taken care of, and provided for; and is it poſſible indeed that the ſame methods can not ſerve for the ſecurity of all? and thoſe when once known and publiſhed are what are called laws; which, therefore, it is evident will never be ſufficient to fill volumes, but may be compriſed in a very ſmall compaſs.

Let us look over the codes of any of our colonies, and ſee what a heap they often are of contradictory inſtitutions; but generally of ſuch as are inconſiſtent with the welfare of any part of mankind but themſelves. One colony makes laws to hurt the next one: is this to be permitted? and ſo if one ſtate makes, it's laws to the prejudice of another, is not this as much againſt the laws of God and nature, as thoſe of a

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particular colony are againſt the intereſt of the whole ſtate, of which they are parcels? which requires that every member thereof enjoy equal liberties, rights, or priviliges, and ſo God and nature, would have it that all mankind ſhould with reſpect to one another.

Is it becauſe a little river, or arm of the ſea, divides your country from mine, that I am therefore to do you all the indirect hurt I can? that I ſhall never buy any thing from you, tho' it be confeſſedly better, and cheaper, than what I can get at home, or any where elſe, even though I ſearch to a greater diſtance for it?

Yet ſuch are the arguments, ſuch the ſyſtem, upon which many European ſtates, above all others the Engliſh, have form'd their many heaps of volumes upon volumes, which they call their laws, and are every day adding to the bulk of their ill-digeſted code, by ſtill making new ones of the ſame abſurd tendency.

If the other ſtates of the world followed the ſame plan, there would be an end of Brittain; at leaſt of all her commerce, and of all her wealth and glory. Let Piedmont and China ſtop the exportation of their raw ſilk, as ſhe does of her wool, and why not? what then will become of all her manufactures made of that material? Let Spain ſuffer none of her wool to come to Britain, and where then will be her trade for fine broad cloaths? In ſhort, if people would judge diſpaſſionately, and of their own concerns, with the ſame equity as they would of their neighbours, they would inſtantly ſee and acknowledge the injuſtice and the folly of ſuch reſtrictions, and nothing but the ſtrongeſt prejudice

judice ariſing from mere avarice, and a mean contemptible ſelfiſhneſs, can ever make them approve or continue ſuch inſtitutions.

But alas where, when, or how, can we hope for a legiſlator to ariſe with ſuch noble ſentiments, in favour of univerſal equal liberty, in theſe points? No! the directors of our parliaments endeavour to inſtil into them the pooreſt pityfulleſt ideas on ſuch occaſions; they rack their brains for ways and means to raiſe money, by oppreſſing the poor with taxes, loading manufactures with burdens, cramping trade by prohibiting every thing that ſhould be tolerated, and tolerating every thing that ſhould be prohibited; juſt to get over a ſeſſion, without either knowing, or ſo much as even ſtriving to know; (not perhaps indeed thro' their narrow prejudices capable of diſcovering,) the true baſis of commerce, the real intereſt of their country, or ſo much as the eaſe and glory of their indulgent maſter.

The ſcene is too gloomy, the proſpect of it muſt damp every joy, and ſpread an horror of melancholy over every thinking heart. Let us then here drop the curtain, and ſtrive to turn our thoughts to ſome more entertainiug ſubject.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

Of the North-Weſt Paſſage.

WE cannot paſs from the northern regions of Hyperborea, more to the ſouthward, without croſſing that ſpace, where the North-Weſt paſſage (which opens a communication on that quarter between the Atlantic and the Auſtralian oceans) is ſuppoſed to lie; the conſideration, of it therefore, here naturally occurs. Nothing can be more certain from the paſt diſcoveries of the Spaniards, and later ones of the Ruſſians, than that the neareſt part of the Auſtralian ocean is 600 leagues, or about two thouſand Engliſh miles diſtant from Hudſon's Bay, which opens to the Atlantic, and which ſpace, as was ſaid, is the ſhorteſt between them.

If therefore there, is any communication from one to the other by the North-Weſt paſſage, it muſt be by a ſtrait, or very narrow, ſea of that prodigious length. This at once is apt to preclude all hope of there being ſuch a thing.

Another conſideration is, that the Indians who traffic with the Engliſh at Hudſon's Bay, and who it is affirmed, do ſome of them come all the way from the ſhores of the Auſtralian ocean, or of ſome bay or inlet communicating therewith, do yet never come by water but always the whole by land; except that they uſing indeed canous to croſs

croſs lakes or great rivers in their way. How comes it then that thoſe people who carry canoes with them to help in the croſſing ſuch lakes and rivers, do not uſe them during the whole paſſage, but fatigue themſelves by traverſing on foot ſuch immenſe tracts of woody and ſometimes ſwampy grounds? For it cannot be pretended they chooſe the latter way for the ſake of hunting and of getting proviſions; as 'tis known that the Indians who ſail up and down great rivers in theſe canoes, do conſtantly from time to time make a practice of going on ſhore to hunt and get proviſions; and ſo to be ſure they would along all this north-weſt ſtrait if there was a poſſibility of a continued navigation thereon: that is, if the Indians trading to Hudſon's Bay came from that part of the Auſtralian ocean which was neareſt thereto. And to be ſure there is great weight in theſe arguments againſt a north-weſt paſſage; and nothing in the world could induce people, one ſhould think, ſo much as to ſuſpect the ſmalleſt probability of ſuch; if it was not actually by ſome navigation or other either really diſcovered, or pretended at leaſt to be ſo.

For independent of ſuch real or pretended diſcovery, all the reaſonings commonly uſed to make out the probability thereof, do in truth prove nothing at all to the purpoſe: Let us conſider them: It is ſaid that the flocks of wild geeſe, which viſit Hudſon's Bay in the ſpring, always come from the weſtward: Well what then? Why to be ſure the weſt ſea they come from, muſt needs be near Hudſon's Bay: Far from it: Theſe geeſe may indeed come

from the Auſtralian ocean; but as we know that ſpecies feed as well in freſh water marſhes, ponds, lakes, and rivers, as at the ſea; and as we aſſuredly know from Pere Charlevoi's relation, that there are three very great lakes juſt midway between the two ſeas we ſpeak of, (beſides that from the accounts of the Indians, and from the general nature of the regions in thoſe parts, all abounding in lakes; we have abundant reaſon to believe there are great numbers of others alſo, beſides the three before mentioned, lying in the tract which theſe wild geeſe follow in their ſuppoſed flight;) there will be no neceſſity for allowing that tract to be ſo ſhort, as thoſe who uſe this argument would perſuade us: It may be as long as was before repreſented, and the chains of lakes, reaching perhaps the whole length of it, may well be conſidered as temptations enough to the wild geeſe to proceed all the way, long as it is: nor can any argument be brought from that ſpecies not being known uſually to range ſo far, becauſe allowing it was ſo in general; yet here an exception might reaſonably be admitted, where there is ſuch a continued long extended tract, abounding in lakes, more than in any other part of the world beſides.

But in truth we have no ſufficient reaſon to think that wild geeſe do not take flights of very great length, hundreds of leagues at leaſt; for we know that thoſe which annually viſit the Britiſh iſlands, about the latter end of Auguſt or beginning of September, come from the ſouthward, and croſs in their way at leaſt the whole Bay of Biſcay, if not a much greater tract,

perhaps

perhaps from Barbary; whence to the ſouth-eaſt part of Ireland, where I have been aſſured they are every year firſt obſerved, about the time mentioned, is at leaſt 400 leagues. I have converſed with men of ſenſe and ſkill upon the ſubject, who have aſſured me that they have purpoſely gone out to ſea, to make their obſervations on the flights of theſe fowl; and that though they flew too high to be ſeen, they could yet be heard up in the air very diſtinctly, both before they approached, alſo when directly over their heads, and afterwards when they had paſſed. And particularly the late Rev. Dr. John Wynne, precentor of St. Patrick's Dublin, who was very generally known, and his character reſpected in England as well as Ireland, told me, that once, when he had been out on ſuch an expedition, off the coaſt of Wexford, on purpoſe to make the obſervation, he had heard the geeſe, but could not ſee them, and the next day found conſiderable numbers of them had landed there. Their noiſe he ſaid came from the ſouthward, rather inclining from towards the weſt, and therefore they muſt have come from Spain or Barbary; and of courſe have in one continued flight traverſed that ſpace, near 300, and perhaps more probably 400 leagues, over the ſea: And ſo might the geeſe near the ſuppos'd north-weſt paſſage have done: And as it is but 300 leagues from the Auſtralian ocean to Penſ Charlevoi's three great lakes, lying mid-way between it and Hudſon's Bay, even upon ſuppoſition that they had not ſtopp'd at all on their paſſage till they came thither; but from what was juſt now mentioned

about the European wild geeſe, 'tis plainly no manner of improbability, that as in two ſuch flights, thoſe others might have reach'd that fen from their leaving the ſhores of the Auſtralian ocean; ſo from hence no kind of argument can be drawn to prove any greater vicinity between them.

Another argument is taken from the ſize of the rivers which run into Hudſon's Bay; the which ſtill, as one proceeds more northerly, are found to grow ſmaller, a proof that the land is there narrower.

It is indeed a proof that the mountains or ſources whence thoſe rivers proceed, are in the northern part much nearer to Hudſon's Bay, than are the ſources of the rivers which run from the ſouth; but this is no manner of proof in the leaſt, that the land in general grows ſo much proportionably narrower, becauſe we know the contrary often is the caſe.

For ſuppoſe one ſailing along the coaſts of Italy, and obſerving the Tiber and the Arno to be conſiderable rivers, but theſe on the coaſt of Genoa adjoining to be very ſmall; ought they thence to conclude the land lying north of Genoa to be much narrower, than what lay beyond the ſources of the Tiber and Arno? If they did, they would on trial find themſelves greatly miſtaken; for north of Genoa there is no ſea till you come to the Baltic, about 600 miles diſtant, whereas the other ſea, namely the gulph of Venice, is not near a quarter ſo much. And by the ſame rule, though the rivers in the north part of Hudſon's Bay be of very ſhort courſe, the land beyond them towards the Auſtralian

ſtralian ocean may be of a very great extent, as we are very ſure the main body of it is.

A third argument is brought from the tides which run into Hudſon's Bay from the northward, and which therefore they ſay cannot proceed from Baffin's Bay, becauſe forſooth the tide in this latter riſes but five feet, whereas in the other it riſes ten feet; and therefore it muſt come from ſome other ſea, and what other but the Auſtralian ocean.

It is a ſhame indeed that ſuch an argument ſhould be uſed; for is it not always obſerved that the further one goes into deep receſſes of the ſea, the tides riſe higher? In the open ocean they riſe ſcarce two feet, and near the edge of it towards the equinoctial line, two feet is nearly about their height: So it is in the Caribbee iſlands; but as one proceeds more inwards, towards the main, the tides are higher; ſo as in the cod or bottom of the Bay of Honduras to be fifteen feet, and in the Bay of Campeachy ſtill more.

By this rule then, though the tides riſe in Baffin's Bay but five feet, they may well mount to ten or more in Hudſon's Bay, ſuppoſing, as indeed is moſt probable, that they run from the former into the latter.

But if it were otherwiſe, and that it were certain they did not come from Baffin's Bay, that yet would be no proof that they proceeded from the Auſtralian ocean; for they might flow from the Hyperborean, namely from ſuch part of it as waſhed the moſt northern ſhores thereof towards the pole.

And

And that the very abettors of the argument from the tides, did not believe that they come from the Auſtralian ocean, but rather from the moſt northern part of the Hyperborean, (which would no way anſwer their ſcheme, as ſuch a paſſage could never be navigable, at leaſt never ſhorten the way to China) nay that they rather ſuſpected, or found at leaſt after all, that they came from Baffin's Bay, notwithſtanding their pretending to argue for the contrary: This is to me very highly probable, from their declining to ſearch that very paſſage, from which the tides came. At firſt whilſt they ranged along that clump of ſuppoſed iſlands called Cumberland iſlands, and which they name the eaſt main, the tide was always found to come from the north-weſt: well, they followed it on, until they came neareſt to that place where Baffin's and Hudſon's Bay approach each other, and from whence the tides moſt certainly come; yet all on a ſudden, inſtead of proceeding on ſtill to the extreme north weſt, we find them unexpectedly (and we cannot from their own relations gueſs from what motives) got to the weſt main, and the tides then coming not from the north-weſt, as hitherto they had obſerved, but from the north-eaſt, which they had paſſed.

It is plain they had then ſo paſſed the opening, through which the tides enter the bay: ought they not then to have turned back, and to have ſearched till they had diſcovered the very ſtrait, through which the tide ſo entered. No! 'Tis to be thought they now ſuſpected, what I verily believe will be found the truth, that this tide came from Baffin's Bay, which as

was obſerved would no way anſwer their ſcheme; and therefore for fear they ſhould diſcover that diſagreeable truth, they proceeded ſtill further off, all along the weſt ſide, ſearching, or pretending rather to ſearch, for a north-weſt paſſage, where, according to their own ſyſtem, it was impoſſible to be found; and accordingly indeed they did not find it.

I have ſaid, that according to their own ſyſtem, framed from their obſervation of the tides, the north-weſt paſſage could not be where they continued to ſearch for it, becauſe they found that in every inlet which they examined, the tides ſtill continued to flow from the north-eaſt or north-weſt; and it appears from all they have publiſhed, that they looked upon it as indiſputable, that the ſuppoſed north-weſt paſſage muſt be in that part from whence the tide comes: and therefore, that as it proceeded from the north-weſt at firſt, and afterwards when they changed their courſe from the north-eaſt, the paſſage muſt have been there, where yet they never tried for it; and that it could not be ſuppoſed by them to be, where yet they perſiſted to ſearch, or rather to pretend to ſearch for it.

But after all, I confeſs that this argument, drawn from the tides, is in no ſort a proof of the non-exiſtence of the north-weſt paſſage; or that the mouth of it is not in one of thoſe very inlets which they ſearched. I ſay the argument drawn from the TIDES is no ſufficient proof, for at preſent I am conſidering only that one.

Suppoſing

Suppoſing an inlet from the Auſtralian ocean to run a conſiderable way up within the land, and the tide alſo to run ſo far: is it not eaſily conceivable, that it might, before it reached Hudſon's Bay, meet another tide coming thence, juſt as the tide coming up the Engliſh channel from the weſt does ſome where near Dungeneſs meet the other tide, that comes along the eaſt coaſt of England from the northward; and therefore, though this argument drawn from the tides is by no means to be admitted as a proof of the reality of a north-weſt paſſage, neither is it indeed a proof of the non-exiſtence thereof.

I have before mentioned two circumſtances that make much againſt the probability of that paſſage; namely, 1ſt, the great length, no leſs than 600 leagues, which muſt (if there is ſuch a paſſage) be all taken up with ſo long a ſtrait or very narrow ſea, which one is not much inclined to ſuppoſe any way credible. 2. That we cannot learn the Indians, who viſit Hudſon's Bay, ever navigate ſuch a long paſſage; and which one cannot help thinking that they would if it exiſted. Neither can any reaſoning whatever be brought to remove the prejudices, which thoſe two conſiderations muſt be apt to raiſe in our minds, againſt the probability of ſuch paſſage, except its appearing to be a matter of fact, by ſome credible relation, of the paſſage's having been actually navigated. We have indeed extant ſtories of ſuch; let us then examine them fairly, and ſee what proofs to the purpoſe they bring.

As

As none of thoſe relations mention any particular latitude, where it is ſaid they found the paſſage, nor give any particular circumſtances that may be thought to mark with preciſion, or even very nearly the place where ſuch paſſage was made; except only the account publiſhed in the name of De Fonte; I ſhall paſs over all the others (even that of De Fuca, though inſerted in the maps, becauſe it is extremely unſatisfactory) and proceed to examine that of De Fonte: and here follows the ſubſtance of his ſtory as related by himſelf.

He tells us, "that in the year 1639, the 14th of Charles I. of England, the court of Spain being advertiſed of ſome navigations being attempted by the people of Boſton in New England that year; he was ordered to equip four ſhips of force [in order to oppoſe them] and having left Callao, the port of Lima in Peru, April 3, 1640, at five in the afternoon, he made the following courſes."

	Leag.	Deg.	Courſe.
"April 7, St. Helena at Guayaquil	200	2	South.
"April, 10, the equinoctial by C. Paſſoe			
"April 11, C. St. Franciſco		1-7	North.
"April 16, Rialeja	320	11-14	W.N.W.
"April 26, Chiametlan Compoſtella	480	17-31	N.W.byW.

This muſt be a miſtake, for he made in the laſt courſe only 6 degrees 17 minutes; his courſe N. W. by N. and yet ran 480 leagues, whereas from C. St. Franciſco to Rioloja, he made 10 degrees 7 minutes; the courſe W.N.W. and yet ran but 320 leagues. Beſides Chiametlan, near to which Compoſtella lies, is really

in near 23 degrees of north latitude; and not in 17 degrees 31 minutes. If we change the latitude of Chiametlan from 17-31, where he miſtakingly places it, to 23, where it really lies, this will add near 6 degrees more to De Fonte's courſe; ſo as to make the whole about 12 degrees or 240 leagues: though to make out the 480 leagues, if that be not likewiſe a miſtake, we muſt ſuppoſe he made many traverſes which lengthened his courſe.

To proceed, "being hereabouts aſſured by a maſter of a veſſel, whom he had hired at Compoſtella; that on the eaſt ſide of California, about 200 leagues up the gulph thereof, a flood from the north met the ſouth floods, and that therefore he was ſure it muſt be an iſland. He ſent Penneloſſa, one of his captains, with his ſhip, and four challopes, which they had bought at Rialeja, accompanied with the ſaid maſter of the veſſel whom he had hired, and his mariners, in order to diſcover whether California were an iſland or not."

What happened to Penneloſſa, or what diſcoveries he made we know not: De Fonte taking no further notice thereof. But we are now aſſured by the Jeſuits, that it is a Peninſula and not an iſland; though ſome maps ſtill ſay that it is both an iſland and a Peninſula. The ſea at ſpring tides running quite acroſs the land, from the ocean into the gulph of California, which at other tides is joined by that overflown ground to the main; and ſo it is ſometimes an iſland, ſometimes a peninſula.

Indeed the Japaneſe map before mentioned, makes a continued channel of water to communicate

nicate between the gulph of California and Hudſon's Bay; but this I fancy will not be much regarded: and ſo we muſt leave this particular article, till future diſcoveries ſhall have certainly determined the truth.

Return we to De Fonte, who ſailed from Chiametlan with his remaining three ſhips &c.

	Deg.	Run	Leagues.	Courſe.
" May 10, 1640, made Cape or Port Abel in	26.	N.	160.	N.W. by W.
" May 16, to Cape Blanco			410	N.N.W.
" June 14, to Rio los Reys	53	N.	456	Ditto.

All the ſailors that have made remarks on this voyage, univerſally agree, in ſuppoſing the laſt courſe to be miſtaken, or that it ſhould be only partly N. N. W. namely as far as to the mouth of the Archipelago of St. Lazarus, or Straits of Anian (for all allow they are the ſame) and that from the entrance of the ſaid Straits to Rio los Reys, the courſe was N. N. E.

There is certainly ſome miſtake here; though how to rectify it one knows not: he poſitively ſays, " he ſailed before a ſteady gale, which blew from S. S. E. ſo as that from May 26 to June 14, he had no occaſion to lower a topſail, in ſailing 866 leagues N.N.W. 410 leagues whereof were from Cape Abel to Cape Blanco, and 456 more from Cape Blanco to Rio los Reys." We are morally certain from the Ruſſian diſcoveries, and from every other information, that the whole 866 leagues could not be one continued N.N.W. courſe; but that part thereof muſt have been N. N. E. or on ſome ſuch point. So here is a great uncertainty, with reſpect to the mouth of Rio los Reys; except indeed that he lays

it down in 53 degrees north latitude. But how far eaſt or weſt, we know not: however, as De Liſle's ſcheme ſeems to be moſt approved, let us follow that.

De Fonte's account of his navigation up the Archpelago of St. Lazarus is, "that it was 260 leagues long, in crooked channels, amongſt iſlands, where the ſhip's boats ſailed a mile a head, ſounding to ſee what water rocks or ſands were in the way.

"After De Fonte had arrived at the mouth of Los Reys, he ſent one of his captains, with orders to another of his captains, one Bernarda, to ſail up a fair river, a gentle ſtream and deep water [obſerve the word *up*, which plainly implies that the river ran down to them.] Its courſe was up N.N.E. and N.N.W. its depth not leſs than 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 fathoms; it came from a large lake full of iſlands, and one very large peninſula full of inhabitants, a friendly honeſt people; the lake he named Valaſco: the river he had ſailed up into it, they called the river of of Haro; and the peninſula was by the native called Connibaſſet. Both the rivers and lakes abounded with ſalmon trout and large white perch, ſome of them two feet long. And it flowed in both rivers near the ſame water: in the river Los Reys, twenty-four feet full and change of the moon, S. S. E. moon making high water; and in the river of Haro, twenty-two feet and an half full and change. [The tide therefore flowed up both rivers.] Captain Bernarda firſt ſailed from the ſhips, in the lake Valaſco, 140 leagues weſt, and then 436 E.N.E. to 77, or rather, as afterwards, appears

to

to 79 degrees of latitude. But firſt leaving his own ſhip, between the iſland of Bernard and the Peninſula of Connibaſſet, a very ſafe port; went down the river from the lake three falls, 80 leagues and fell into the Tartarian ſea in 61 degrees latitude. This, in three Indian boats each made of a tree, fifty or ſixty feet long," accompanied with thirty-ſix of the natives, twenty of his own mariners, and two father Jeſuits, [whence it appears the river was not navigable by his own ſhips, ſince he made uſe of Indian boats] in which they went down a river (obſerve *went down*) a river from the lake, which ſhews the river ran into the Tartarian ſea in 61 degrees. For he tells us in another place, "that Bernarda was diſpatched by him on the diſcovery of the north and eaſt part of the Tartarian ſea." [And this diſcovery was firſt, it ſeems to be made, before he proceeded to the north-eaſt, to diſcover if there was any communication between this lake of Valaſco, and Davis's Sraits]

What put this into their heads, was probably the information of the two Jeſuits, "who were with them, and who had formerly been as far as 66 degrees north latitude; and had made curious obſervations;" which two ſeem, both of them to have gone with Bernarda upon this new diſcovery which he was ſent on.

Now the place where the unnamed river beforementioned, (that had three falls in it, and that had a courſe of 80 leagues) entered the Tartarian ſea in 61 degrees, muſt be that bay, which was afterwards diſcovered by captain Beering in the Ruſſian Service, in the year 1741; the ſouth cape of which bay, is terminated by Cape St. Elias;

Elias; and within it a good large iſland of about forty miles every way over: Though the ranges of hills and high lands which every where ſurround that bay, make it very doubtful whether any ſuch river could enter into it. But tho' it be doubtful, it is, however, no proof, that it certainly does not ſo enter it; eſpecially as the three falls, ſaid to be therein, make it not impoſſible, but that they might be occaſioned by its paſſing thoſe hills and high lands mentioned. And note here, that Bernarda in order to ſail down this river, had left his ſhip; and therefore it appears to have been navigable only by boats.

After ſending this account by letter to De Fonte, "Bernarda proceeded north eaſtward, whether the land trended; and this in the three boats before-mentioned, with the twenty Spaniſh ſeamen, the two father Jeſuits, and the the thirty-ſix natives. He ſailed N. E. and E. E. N. E, and N. E. by E. all the way, to the 79th degree of north latitude (which is nearly the height of the upper part of Baffins Bay)", which Bernarda in this relation calls Davis's Straits: "that from the ſaid latitude of 79, the land trended northwards, the ice ſetling on the land; that the natives had conducted one of his ſeamen to the head, or ſaid upper part of this Baffins Bay, or Davis's Straits, which terminated in a freſh lake, about 30 miles in circumference, in 80 degrees latitude; on the north of which were prodigious mountains; and on the north-weſt ſide of the lake, the ice was fixed from the ſhore to 100 fathoms depth for ought he knew, and on the whole, that there is no communication;

tion; the way he went between the Spaniſh ſeas (viz. the Auſtralian ocean) and Davis's Straits, or Baffins Bay. All this was performed between June 22 and Auguſt 11, in the year 1640. while the ſeaſon was exceeding fine." [Whereof the five firſt days were ſpent in ſailing through lake Valaſco, and exploring the river with three falls, that entered the Tartarian ſea in latitude 61, as appears from Bernarda's firſt letter to De Fonte, dated June 27, and in which] " he deſcribes the country thereabouts, to abound in excellent veniſon of three ſorts, and the ſea and rivers with excellent fiſh:" Obſerve, he ſays, *the ſea*, which ſhews he had in theſe five days entered what he calls the Tartarian ſea, and which therefore, as was ſaid, muſt be at or near the bay of St. Elias, diſcovered again by captain Beering, 101 years afterwards. The remaining forty-five days were ſpent in navigating up to the head of Davis's Straits, or Baffins's Bay, and returning therefrom.

Obſerve, that Bernarda does not ſay the land along the ſhores of which he ſailed up to 79 degrees ended there, as the maps of the tracts he navigated repreſent it. No! " he ſays the land trended then northward; the ice reſting on the land;" ſo that it ſhould ſeem that body of water which he ſailed on, reached ſtill further than he went: and, if there be any truth in his relation, muſt be the ſame with that great inlet, which the Japaneſe maps repreſent to extend from the moſt northern coaſts of Hyperborea, in about 82 degrees quite into the land, as far ſouthward as to the 68th degree, that is 280 leagues, and there dividing it into two arms,

they

they both run ſtill more ſouthward; the weſtermoſt terminating in 65, and the other in 62 degrees; within 80 leagues of the place from whence Bernarda began his navigation up this bay.

And this relation of Bernarda's, compared with the Japaneſe maps, though not perfectly agreeing (as the Japaneſe maps take no notice of that northern inlet's communication with the South Sea in 61 degrees.) Yet however are ſo alike, as to gain credit the one to the other.

This relation of Bernarda's is deciſive againſt any communication between Baffin's Bay and the Auſtralian ocean as the followers of governor Dobbs affect to make us believe. I ſay affect; becauſe from what I before obſerved, it is pretty plain, thoſe whom he procured to be employed on the diſcovery of a N. W. paſſage, did not themſelves believe it to be thereabouts. In ſhort, if there be any communication from the Auſtralian ocean with any other in that tract which Bernarda navigated, it muſt be only with that ocean which waſhes the northern ſhores of Hyperborea, and which to us would be uſeleſs.

Return we now from Bernarda to his commander De Fonte, and ſee what he did towards diſcovering the N. W. paſſage in the other tract up the lake Belle, which he choſe for himſelf to try. And he tells us, "that he ſailed from the place where Bernarda had been diſpatched [which ſeems to have been at the joint mouths of the two rivers, viz. Haro which Bernarda ſailed up to lake Valaſco and Los Reys, which De Fonte reſerved to himſelf to examine] and which did lead up, as we find, to a lake which he called Belle."

"De

"De Fonte on the 22d of June, the day he had ſent Benarda to go to the northward, entered lake Belle, with his two remaining ſhips; and there was then no fall or cataract, but four or five fathom water, and ſix or ſeven generally in the lake Belle. For [it ſeems] there is a little fall of water till half flood; and an hour and a quarter before high water, the flood begins to ſet greatly into the lake Belle [So that this tide of flood ſeems to go from the ſea lying to the ſouth-weſtward, up the river Los Reys and ſo into Lake Belle.] "The river is freſh at 20 leagues diſtance from the mouth or entrance; and both the river and lake abound with ſalmon, ſalmon trout, pikes, perch, and mullets, and two other ſorts of fiſh peculiar to that river; and theſe mullets caught in the river Los Reys, and in lake Belle, are the moſt delicate he believes in world.

"The firſt of July, 1640, De Fonte ſailed from Lake Belle, from a port thereon named Conoſſett, covered by a fine iſland, to a river, which he called Parmentiers, from his induſtrious comrade Mr Parmentiers, who had exactly marked every thing in and about that river. In doing all this, he left his ſhips, [that is, the two ſhips which remained with him, at Conoſſett; and therefore he ſailed in boats.] He proceeds, "he paſſed eight falls, in all thirty-two feet perpendicular from its ſource out of lake Belle. [The falls being one with another four feet each; and the river did not run into, but came out of the lake Belle] and falls into a

large lake, named De Fonte, where he arrived the 7th day, that is July 6."

It ſeems then that the lake Belle is the higheſt water in theſe parts between the two oceans; that is, in all the N. W. paſſage; and as they ſailed up the river Los Reys into lake Belle in ſhips; ſo they ſailed down the river Parmentiers, from thence into lake De Fonte in boats.

"This lake of De Fonte is 160 leagues long and 60 broad, lying E. N. E. and W. S. W. it is twenty, thirty, and ſometimes ſixty fathom deep, and abounds with excellent cod and ling, [and therefore the tide comes up into it from the eaſtward.] "It has ſeveral very large iſlands and ten ſmall ones; they are covered with ſhruby woods; the moſs grows ſix or ſeven feet long, with which the mooſe a very large ſort of deer, as well as the ſmaller ſpecies of fallow, are fat in winter. There are abundance of wild cherries, ſtraw-berries, hurtle-berries, and wild currants. Alſo of wild fowl, heath cocks and hens; likewiſe partridges, and turkies, and ſea fowl in great plenty: On the ſouth ſide there is a very large fruitful iſland which had a great many inhabitants, and very excellent timber, as oaks, aſhs, elms, and fir trees, very large and tall."

"The 14th of July, he ſailed out of the E. N. E. end of the lake; and paſſed along another lake which he named Eſtrecho de Ronquilo, 24 leagues long, 2 or 3 leagues broad, and 20, 26 and 28 fathom deep. He paſſed this ſtrait [obſerve he here calls it a Strait, which he before named a lake, probably from its being ſo narrow

narrow in proportion to its breadth,] in ſo little a time as ten hours, having a ſtout gale of wind and the whole ebb;" [ſo that it is plan the ebb ran eaſtward, that is towards Hudſon's Bay, ſince it favoured him.]

"The 17th of July, he came to an Indian town, and the Indians told the interpreter Mr. Parmentiers [and who therefore muſt have been in thoſe parts before, going thither from either the weſtward or eaſtward, or how could he underſtand their language, ſo as to be interpreter:] That a little way from them lay a great ſhip, where never had been one before. De Fonte ſailed to them, and found the ſhip was from Boſton in New England, belonging to one ſenior Gibbons, major-general of Maſſachuſets colony, who was then with the ſhip there; the maſter was one Shapely, a brave navigator: De Fonte gave a ring worth 1200 ducats, and a quarter caſk of Peruvian wine to Gibbons; and alſo a thouſand ducats more to captain Shapely for his fine charts and journals; and twenty pieces of eight to each of their ten ſeamen: and the 6th of Auguſt, having as much wind as they could fly before, and the current with them, [and therefore they now ſailed with the tide of flood] arrived at the firſt fall of the river Parmentiers, the 11th of Auguſt 86 leagues; and were on the ſouth ſide the lake Belle, on board their ſhips, Auguſt 16, before the fine town of Conoſſet, before-mentioned, where all things were found well. After which, September 2, he ſailed from Conoſſet, and the 5th in the morning about

eight o'clock, was at anchor between Arenna and Mynhaſſet, the former of which places was 20 leagues from the mouth of the river Los Reys, and the other near it; and ſo ſailing down that river, [obſerve, 'tis *down*, which ſhews the courſe of the river ran now the way he was ſailing; whereas before he ſailed it up from the north-eaſt part of the South Sea.] "After that he returned home, having found that there was no paſſage into the South Sea, by that called the north-weſt paſſage; [he adds,] the chart will make this more demonſtrable." But alas, no chart has accompanied this relation. That, which we have, being invented to ſuit this narrative, and to ſuit alſo that of other real or pretended diſcoveries.

The only difficulty or obſcurity in the latter part of this relation is, to know whether the 6th of Auguſt mentioned was the day they left the Engliſh ſhip or not; and what ſpace it is, that he ſays was 86 leagues where he was the 11th of Auguſt on his return, at the firſt fall of the river Parmentiers: becauſe in going out he does not give us the length of the courſe of the river Parmentiers, but ſays the lake De Fonte is 160 leagues extent; ſo that what part of his courſe was thus 86 leagues long, we cannot at all gueſs.

I have taken no notice of the proofs brought for the authenticity of this relation, from its mentioning the names of two Engliſhmen, who really exiſted at the ſuppoſed time: of whom Shapely had ſuch extraordinary adventures at ſea, as to be called Old Nick; and to have ſome tradition of them to this day preſerved in his family

family and neigbourhood: And major Gibbons can be proved (as it is ſaid) to have been at the very time abſent from New England; and ſo might have been met by De Fonte, as the relation informs us. For what if the mention of theſe two Engliſhmen proves ever ſo much, that the narrative of De Fonte not being publiſhed, till ſixty-eight years after, could not be a fiction. (For, how indeed, could it hit upon the names of theſe two men, if they had not really exiſted, and been actually met with by the author?) Yet ſtill we from the whole (obſerving it ever ſo genuine) can conclude at moſt that there is a navigation for boats uninterruptedly from ſea to ſea, by that called the N. W. paſſage: but that the cataracts or waterfalls in the river Parmentiers are ſuch, as to make it utterly impaſſable by ſhips; for elſe why ſhould De Fonte quit his ſhips in the lake to perform the reſt of the navigation in his boats; and ſo, as De Fonte concludes, if there be no other; then there is no N. W, paſſage at all: except only in the way of an inland navigation; which, however (if even that was certain,) would be valuable enough to excite a very great attention from the public.

It is a great misfortune that all the writers on this ſubject appear to be under ſtrong prejudices: They who wiſh for it, would fain make us believe every idle rumour of a ſtory, and fancy every imagination in its favour, to be real: while from the weakneſs and abſurdity of the ſeveral relations and arguments brought to prove it, one can hardly think they themſelves look upon them to carry any weight.

On the contrary, thoſe who think it their intereſt

tereſt to oppoſe and hinder a diſcovery of this paſſage, uſe every art to deſtroy all credibility of it.

I perſuade myſelf I am quite diſpaſſionate: I have fairly propoſed two exceeding ſtrong objections to it: 1. from the prodigious length of the paſſage; ſuch as one cannot without the greateſt difficulty perſuade themſelves exiſts at all in nature: and 2. from its never being known to be navigated by thoſe Indians, who come to Hudſon's Bay from the Auſtralian ocean, and who to be ſure would uſe it, if they knew of ſuch. Nor can one admit any anſwer whatever to this; not ſcarcely, tho' ever ſo well authenticated, relations in favour of the paſſage; but only the ſuppoſing it to lye in ſome other tract than that, which theſe Indians uſe, who viſit our ſettlements in Hudſon's Bay.

On the other hand, notwithſtanding the ſtrength of theſe objections; I confeſs De Fonte's relation, even with its inaccuracies and ſome miſtakes, does yet carry with it ſuch an air of ſimplicity and truth, and the circumſtance of meeting Gibbons and Shapely, is ſo ſtrong in its favour, that I cannot think myſelf at liberty quite to reject it.

But then as after all, it will not prove that there is any ſuch N. E. paſſage as can be navigated, uninterruptedly by ſhips; ſo muſt it therefore appear of much leſs importance to have it fully diſcovered; and yet it muſt be owned, if navigable only for boats, that it highly deſerves very ſerious conſiderations from the government.

What

What effect this diſcovery might have on the trade of the Eaſt-India, and Hudſon's Bay companies; and in what way they ſhould be compenſated for the loſs they muſt expect to ſuffer thereby; (for I think common juſtice requires that by all means they be compenſated to the full, and this without paying the leaſt regard to thoſe who cry "down with them, down with them even to the ground;" and who, if themſelves had ſhares in theſe trades, would think themſelves very ill uſed, to be in ſo arbitrary a manner deprived of the profits without full compenſations made for their loſs.) How much ſatisfaction ſhould be given to the two companies, I ſay, we cannot at preſent determine. It would too much lengthen this little tract, which has already grown, perhaps to too great a bulk, to enter into the detail of ſuch particulars: political diſcourſes muſt not be long, elſe they will be tedious. So here we ſhall for the preſent put an end to this firſt part: intending, however, if God permit, to proceed with the leaſt loſs of time poſſible, to the remainder; in which, beſides the intereſts of the two companies in queſtion. We ſhall endeavour to lay before the public the true ſtate of our other colonies; and to ſhew how the Britiſh dominions beyond the Atlantic may be ſettled to the greateſt advantage, and vaſtly more than perhaps the moſt ſanguine ſchemer at preſent thinks them capable of.

END of the FIRST PART.

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ERRATA.

Towards the end of the Dedication, p. vii. l. 7. the ſentence following the word *advanced*, ought to be incloſed thus ( ) being a parentheſis.

In the Introduction, p. ix. paragraph the laſt, p. 3. for *five hundred* read *five thouſand*.

In the ſame Introduction, p. xiv. middle paragraph, a whole line is omitted after the word, *conſidered*, viz. *as three original diviſions of the whole globe but*

Chap. I. page 1. paragraph 1. after the word *twelfth*, dele the word *part*.

Page 3. After *Aſia* read *before the Ruſſians; becauſe when theſe latter*

Chap. II. Page 4. paragraph 1. laſt line but one dele *they*

Page 5, l. 31 dele *very*, and page 7. laſt line but ſix, after *how* add *alſo*.

Page 10. for laquitur read loquitur; near the bottom, for *tells us*, read *informs us*.

Page 11. paragraph 4. near the middle, for *he and his companions*, &c. read, *as he and his companions were rambling &c. They diſcovered*.

Page 13. paragraph 2. l. 5. for *he*, read *one*.

Page 14. laſt line but one, for *peopling* read *planting*.

Page 16. near the middle for Iceland read Ireland.

Page 21. near the middle for *theſe* read *their*; and ſix lines lower, for *or*, Wilderſhuſen, read *and* Wildeshuſen.

Chap. V. line 4. after *Iceland*, inſert *before mentioned*.

Page 24. l. 2. for *ſo much* read *ſo great extent*.

Page 25 l. 2. after *part*, read *is chiefly contiguous to Holſtein, and*

Page 27. l. 10, 11, for *never on any*, read *on no*; and ſame page, paragraph 2. l. 5. for *not* read *no*.

Page 29. l. 17. after *which* read *latter*.

Page 30, l. 4. 5, for *and tranſfer*, read *and alſo tranſfer*.—l. 10. for whell, read *well*; and after the word *them*, the laſt in the paragraph, add *all*; and in paragraph 2, laſt line but one after *either*, inſert *of them*.

ERRATA.

Chap. VI. Page 32. l. 11. for *well*, read "*Well*; and after *I am*, add, *good Sir*.

Page 32. l. 2, for *England*; put *England*:"

Page 14. for *religion*, read *the gospel*.

Page 35. l. 13. after *then* add *also*.

Page 37. l. 7. after *to* insert *the president*.

Page 40. l. 5. for *dominicans*, read *Dominicans*; paragragh 2. l. 11. for *one*, read *once*.

Page 42. paragraph 2. l. 6. after the last *the*, add *number of*; and l. 7. for *clergy*, read *curates*.

Page 43. towards the bottom, read *an argument in its favour*.

Page 46. l. 12. for *these*, read *their*; paragraph 2. l. 6. for *pot*, read *drop*.

Page 47. l. 7. for *do*, read *does*.

Page 51. line the last of the first paragraph, dele *property*.

Page 54. l. 3. for *fools or knaves*, read *weak or bad men*.

Page 55. paragraph 2. l. 1. after *are*, insert *many of*.

Page 57. paragraph 2. l. 4. for *a* king, read *A* king; and l. 7. dele *of* and for judg*ment* read judg*ing*.

Page 63. paragraph 2. l. 11. for *every* read *many*.

Page 68. l. 4. for *fen* read *length*.

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